



in this issue:

Our President's Words	2
WGCF Elections	3
Leadership Conference	5
Club Corner	6,7
News from Clubs, Districts	8
ByLaws Recommendations	11
Dates to Remember	15

## Looking Ahead to WGCF Convention.....

### Ticket a Tasket

#### HAVE YOU PICKED OUT YOUR ENTRY FOR THE WGCF CONVENTION YET?

It is time to gather something unique together for the Tisket a Tasket Fundraiser. You can do this as a club or an individual. Bring the entry to Convention so that we can display them. Then the fun begins - you purchase tickets hoping to be the lucky one whose ticket is drawn and get to take that particular item or entry home. It's a lot of fun and the extra funds have, in the past, added to the President's Project, balanced our budget, or raised funds to provide some particular program/item for WGCF. The final decision as to where the funds will be disbursed lies with the Board of Directors.

Can you sell tickets? If so, please contact me at [retiredpastors@centurytel.net](mailto:retiredpastors@centurytel.net).

Many thanks!!

Joan E. Goebel, Finance Chairperson

### SPEAKERS AT OUR BRUNCH ON THE FINAL DAY OF WGCF CONVENTION

Mary Morgan and Kaye Tenerelli

#### "TOWER AVENUE LANDSCAPE: DEVELOPING A LARGE SCALE DESIGN"

Mary Morgan has served as the City of Superior's Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry since 1993. She is responsible for the care and maintenance of 5000 plus acres of parks and open space, much of it along Superior's 96 miles of shoreline. In addition, she oversees the City's urban forestry program, which includes managing approximately 19,000 public trees. She and Kaye worked extensively on this multi-agency project for North Tower Avenue.



Kaye Tenerelli is the Executive Director of the Superior Business Improvement District (BID) which encompasses 89 blocks of the Central Business district. She and the BID Design Committee were selected by the City to develop the North Tower Avenue Street Scape Plan. They are currently working on the Belknap Reconstruction Street Scape Plan. Kaye is a member of the Superior Mayor's Economic Development Team.

#### "Take It To The Lake" 88th Annual WGCF Convention May 28-30, 2015

Information about the breakout sessions, tours, banquets and meetings was included in the Winter issue of *Wisconsin Gardens* and is also available on the WGCF website.



### Gardening Thoughts

*"We gardeners are healthy,  
joyous, natural creatures. We are  
practical, patient, optimistic.  
We declare our optimism every  
year, every season, with every  
act of planting."*

— Carol Deppe



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 2013-2015 OFFICERS:**

**President: Sylvia Lowell**  
3435 State Rd. 78  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572-1341  
608-437-8764 svlowell@mhtc.net

**First Vice President: Gerianne Holzman**  
7437 Terrace Ave.  
Middleton, WI 53562  
608-345-6907  
geriannewgcf@charter.net

**Second Vice President: Joan Goebel**  
4318 S. Wermter Road  
South Range, WI 54874-8019  
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**Recording Secretary: Lois Harr**  
12893 Fieldcrest Rd.  
Sparta, WI 54656-6691  
608-269-6744  
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**Membership Secretary: Diane Olsen**  
4838 North 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53218-2513  
414-578-2513  
gunga\_din13@hotmail.com

**WGCF Treasurer: Lynnette Rakun**  
6622 CTH V  
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085  
920-467-4756  
lmrakun@live.com

**NGC President: Linda Nelson**  
543 Lakefair Place N  
Keizer, OR 97303-3570  
LindaNelson4439@msn.com

**Central Region Director: Gerry Ford**  
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Lake Forest, IL 60004-3379

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

**ADVERTISING RATES**

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

## Notes from our President.....



Two years have gone by in a “blink of an eye” or so it seems. It has been an honor to serve as your WGCF President for 2013-15. Much of the focus in the past twenty-four months has been on developing a strategic plan for WGCF as the organization “Flourishes In A Garden Of Change”. If you remember when I toured your Districts, I talked about the curve we go through as change happens to us and our organizations. As a reminder, reaction to change begins with a blocking behavior, then focuses on obstacles or magnifying problems, moving on to exhibiting irritation or aggression, then depression and finally acceptance of change.

At this point, most people begin looking ahead; seeing a positive view of the future and begin offering solutions. Each success brings new motivation. Developed by *The Communication Toolbox*, this change curve never ends for a viable organization.

And, WGCF, in my opinion, is a viable organization, one that is evolving to meet the needs of members. From the Strategic Planning sub-committees, there is work being done to upgrade the WGCF website, and leadership training is being developed for club officers while the Membership committee will be leading a discussion on recruiting, supporting and maintaining members at the 2015 convention in Superior. Much behind-the-scenes work is going on and many members are involved. Make your ideas known by connecting with one of the Strategic Planning sub-committees.

But, let’s not forget the WGCF schools that were offered in the past two years. Schools included Floral Design with a Floral symposium this past summer. The Landscape Design and Environmental Studies schools that were offered during my term will end Fall of 2015. However, Gardening Studies courses will begin during the next term. Watch for information in our fabulous newsletter, *WISCONSIN GARDENS*. Providing schools for the education of members is part of the WGCF mission.

Members are the heart of WGCF. Our members are the most amazing, talented and knowledgeable people. What’s more, everyone is willing to share their knowledge, ideas and muscles. WGCF is a composite of its members. Is it no wonder that I think that WGCF is a viable organization but I have to admit, stretched to its limit.

I am extremely proud to be a member of such an exceptional organization, like WGCF. It is also exciting to know that Gerianne Holzman, with her rich knowledge and enthusiasm, will be taking over as President for the 2015-2017 term.

Thank you for allowing me to be your 2013-2015 WGCF President.

*Sylvia*

“Flourishing In A Garden Of Change”

## Nominations for WGCF Offices

### Marion Books

The Nominating Committee is very pleased to nominate the following for State Offices: Gerianne Holzman, President; Peggy Grubbs, 1st Vice President; Maureen Wild Gordon, Membership Secretary; Diane Olsen, Recording Secretary and Lynnette Rakun, Treasurer.



### Gerianne Holzman, President Madison District

Gardening since a little tyke at the feet of her mother and grandmother, Gerianne's interest in floral design did not begin until 1980 when her sister talked her into attending Shirley Cuccia's floral design class. One thing led to another and eventually, Gerianne took over teaching the class, joining Shirley's Sunset

Garden Club and becoming a flower show judge. Gerianne embraced the world of garden clubs while serving several times as Sunset's president and the Madison District Director, and several years as the Editor of Wisconsin Gardens. Along with being a master flower show judge, she is an environmental and gardening consultant, and a master landscape design consultant as well as a master gardener. Gerianne enjoys spending time with her husband, Rob and their four-legged kids, traveling, reading and relaxing. Recently retired after over 30 years at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, Gerianne is ready to have fun in her gardens. She looks forward to helping the WGCF sustain its membership, advance its relevance to garden clubs across the state and encourage new leaders.



### Peggy McCarty Grubbs, First Vice President St. Croix District

Growing up in St. Paul, MN, in a non-gardening family, was a challenge. Peggy had few opportunities to learn about seeds and their rewards. That all changed when she was 8 and went for the first of 8 years to Boy Scout Camp, as her father was a scoutmaster. Programs for the families included the joy of finding wild raspberries, working in the kitchen garden and exploring the woods with the naturalists. Peggy was hooked and took every opportunity to garden. Her earliest memory was planting castor bean seeds and watching them grow to tower over her.

She met her husband of 42 years and discovered shared passions when talking about gardening. They purchased 20 acres, built a home, raised a family, and planted apple trees that are still producing. Their six grandchildren gather in February every year to plan what they will be planting next, for selling at a local Farmer's market.

Peggy joined the local garden club, now the Willow River Garden Club, in 1978. Over the years she became a nationally accredited flower show judge, served as club president, district director and WGCF treasurer.

An entrepreneur by nature, Peggy has been a teacher and principal and spent 5 years living abroad in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia teaching children of different countries and cultures, and has tried to instill the love of nature and the joys of gardening.

Peggy looks forward to working with incoming officers and modernizing and streamlining WGCF and positioning it for future growth.



### Diane Olsen, Recording Secretary Milwaukee District

Diane joined the Elmbrook Garden Club in the summer of 2005 during a garden tour and light supper held at a member's home. From 2007 through June of 2011, she served as president of the club. In 2009-2011, she also served as Milwaukee District

Recording Secretary. Diane has participated in numerous club and district projects including Habitat for Humanity, Forest Home Circle Planting Contest and National Gardening Week activities. In 2013 she was recognized for her contributions by the district with the Milwaukee District's Doris Swartz Award for Outstanding Members. She enjoys attending the State, Regional and National Conventions. She is an auditing member for the annual audit of the WGCF financial statements and records. Diane served as interim Membership Secretary in May 2010 and spent 2 terms as Membership Secretary. In 2014 Diane became a NGC, Inc. Certified Flower Show Judge. Originally, from New Jersey, Diane is married to Bryan since 2000 and is retired from the Navy.



### Maureen Wild Gordon, Membership Secretary Madison District

Gardening was been a part of her life since childhood, with her mother having a large vegetable garden and canning for the winter. She planted her first flower garden of Zinnias at age seven. Maureen trained as a

Master Gardener in Rock County and Rotary Gardens in Janesville in 2003. She continues to be actively involved volunteering at Rotary Gardens. She attended her first Sunset Garden meeting in 2006 and has been the recording secretary since 2008. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Jim, the children and grandchildren. A nurse practitioner, Maureen works in Endocrinology with a focus in Diabetes at UW Hospital. She looks forward to serving as the membership secretary and assisting WGCF sustain and grow its membership.



### Lynnette Rakun, Treasurer Sheboygan District

Lynnette joined the Ivy League Garden Club of Sheboygan in 2008. She is currently serving as club Vice President and is also a member of the WGCF Scholarship Investment Committee.

After attending the NGC Gardening Study Schools program, she received Gardening Consultant certification in September. Lynnette retired in March 2011 as the Site Manager, Milwaukee Item Processing of Wells Fargo Bank after 40 years with the company. She is the Chairman of the Sheboygan Area Garden Walk Committee, Secretary of SPC Septemberfest (church festival) and volunteers at the Stefanie H. Weill Center (theater). She enjoys gardening, reading, handcrafts, traveling and playing Mah Jongg.

## National Garden Week

Doris Weber

This year National Garden Week begins on Sunday, June 7th and celebrations last thru Saturday, June 12th 2015. Proclaimed by NGC INC. this special week is designed to focus public attention and new garden club members on various fun events. They include special programs, garden teas, plant sales, garden walks, luncheons, garden tours, bus trips, participation in parades and other garden related projects. Any of these events should invite gardening friends to join in on the fun. It's sure to keep the garden spirit and garden club membership growing in your community and into the future.

Try these activities and keep your local newspapers and other media methods informed. These are goals, projects and objectives of garden clubs around our areas and these announcements should be shared with the public.

Posters proclaiming this special NGC celebration are available from the NGC website, NGC member service or contact Doris Weber by email at: [doris@johnweber.com](mailto:doris@johnweber.com)



## Strategic Planning Action Update

Gerianne Holzman, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

The strategic planning process continues to move forward with the action groups mentioned in the winter issue of *Wisconsin Gardens*. **We are early in the planning so it is not too late to join these dedicated individuals. Please contact Gerianne Holzman or the convener of the group to participate.** Following are some of the topics with updates on their activities.

1. **Communication/technology – Mary Kulhanek**
  - a. Publicity kit available for clubs from Mary Kulhanek
  - b. WGCF Facebook page reactivated – encourage members to visit and “like”
  - c. New website Request for Proposal (RFP) created by Deb Walters, sent out for bids
2. **Leadership – Gretchen Vest**
  - a. Working on leadership conference for officers, district directors and club presidents to be held in conjunction with June 2015 Executive Committee meeting, will be biennial event
  - b. Compiling materials for new club president’s packet and district director’s packets
  - c. Gathering leadership training information developed by Michigan Garden clubs
3. **Convention/education – Kitty Larkin**
  - a. Webinars and on-line classes to be investigated
  - b. Supplement existing schools with other education opportunities
  - c. Create Education Committee
  - d. Survey members at district/club meetings to determine their desires for continuing education
  - e. Develop new convention format, streamline
4. **Membership – Vern Lowell**
  - a. Researching bylaws for how new clubs form
  - b. Identifying groups to target for membership
  - c. Identifying locations to publicize club activities/meetings
  - d. Developing “tools” for clubs to attract members
5. **Fundraising – Wendy Kramer**
  - a. Divide grant writing for projects and general fundraising
  - b. Create grant project committee
  - c. Determine best use of Member Services chair
  - d. Determine other sources of fundraising
  - e. Remove Member Services chair in negotiating convention vendors, easiest to do at local level. This to take effect with 2016 convention
  - f. Create Calendar committee to create WGCF wall calendar for 2016
  - g. Change selection process and name of “president’s project” to “statewide project”, change to take effect with 2017-19 term

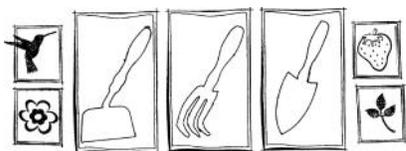
The strategic planning committee is also looking into liability insurance needs of the organization as a whole and perhaps as an umbrella policy for individual clubs. Feel free to contact any member of the strategic planning committee with any suggestions or comments.

## Member Services

Wendy Kramer, Chair

Member Services works to provide gardening and floral design products for sale at the WGCF annual convention and at the WGCF sponsored schools. Member Services also promotes the vast array of items and shopping partners for NGC to help garden club members meet the challenges of garden club programs, work and activities. All money received by WGCF Member Services is used to support WGCF programming and activities.

**NEW this year will be a WGCF t-shirt for all members.** The t-shirt will be available at the 2015 WGCF convention May 28-30<sup>th</sup> in Superior, Wisconsin. The cost of the t-shirt will be \$15. The WGCF logo will be on the sleeve with a gardening theme design on the front of the shirt, "Dig in & Dig it!" I truly hope you will "dig" the new WGCF t-shirt! If you are unable to attend the convention and would like to purchase a t-shirt, mail ordering is available (you pay the postage). Another option, is to have someone pick up a t-shirt for you or ask your District Director to bring some back to sell at your District meeting.



Dig in & Dig it!

Another NEW item for sale at the convention will be Carol Larson's beautiful floral designed note cards. Thank you, Carol, for sharing your talent and providing these cards for us!

## WGCF Leadership Conference

Gerianne Holzman, WGCF President-elect

Club presidents, district directors, WGCF officers for the 2015-17 term of office: please plan to attend the first WGCF leadership conference on June 11 at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison. This conference is open to ALL interested members of the WGCF not just the above named leaders. In conjunction with a shortened summer Executive Committee meeting, the conference will include short seminars covering topics such as agenda planning, leadership development, parliamentary procedure, "WGCF 101 - what you need to know", "NGC - why is it important for our club, district and federation?" Participants will leave with packets of information to help them lead and serve their members. Following the conference, attendees have an opportunity to visit Troy Community Gardens, site of the 2015-17 President's Project "Gardening for Good." More information will be sent as details are finalized.

## Scholarship News

Mary Ellen Sedlachek,  
Scholarship Selection Chair

The Community Foundation of the Fox Cities Region whom the Scholarship Investment and Selection Committees had approved to initiate our scholarship procedure this year was unable to accommodate us, so the Scholarship Selection Committee is processing the applications in the usual manner.

After sending letters to six universities within our state, the department heads were able to contact eligible students to apply for our scholarships. We received three applications for the National Scholarship and nine for our State Scholarships. Since the deadline for our scholarships was moved up to February 1, the timing between semesters makes it a bit difficult for department heads to contact students to engage them in the process. However, we received a much better response than last year with only one applicant for the National Scholarship and five for our State Scholarships. We have twelve possible scholarships that can be awarded.

Our committee has selected a wonderful applicant for the National Scholarship. Hopefully the National Committee will agree with our choice this year. We will keep you posted.

## Garden Club Officers 2015-17

**National Garden Clubs, Inc**  
Sandra H. Robinson, President  
960 Maple Grove Rd  
London, KY 40744-8955  
sandy5342@gmail.com  
Theme: "Leap Into Action"

**Central Region - NGC**  
Judy Newman, Director  
N49 W18935 Joetta Dr  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-6433  
newman9641@aol.com  
Theme: "Cultivating Connections"

**Wisconsin Garden Club Federation**  
Gerianne Holzman, President  
7437 Terrace Av  
Middleton, WI 53562-3154  
608-345-6907  
geriannewgcf@gmail.com  
Theme: "Gardening for Good"

# CLUB O R N E R

Garden Club Presidents were asked to respond to the following question:

## What is one of your Club's best fundraisers?

**Tilling Thyme Garden Club of Sparta** holds a Garden Walk every other year. A few years ago we decided to add a yard sale table to our garden walk. Our members bring garden related items they no longer use & we offer them for sale along with crafts made by some of our members (also garden related) and some plants from our gardens.

Iris Kowalewski, Club President

The **Racine Garden Club** has several activities that raise money for our club and scholarship fund. We have our biennial Summer Magic Garden Tour and on the off year we have our 2nd Treasures and Plant sale. A fun event we have every year is our Plant Auction and Sale. This started out as having members and their guests participate, but last year we opened it to the public. Plants are donated by members, businesses and former garden tour hosts. It is lots of fun and the bidding can get quite competitive! We always have a great turnout and it's very helpful at getting club awareness out to the public. We always have club information on hand and a list of our upcoming meetings and events. It's a fun day and a great way to get new plants and spread the word about our club!

Chris Koschnitzke, Club President

**Potpourri Garden Club of Racine** has had an annual plant sale since 1991, one year after the club was organized and federated. Our sale, in addition to being our major fundraiser, creates an opportunity for plant and gardening education for our customers, as well as our membership.

Our 24 members contribute, plant and sell approximately 5,000 perennials each year. The plants are perennial divisions from members' gardens and plant donations from other community sources. All potted plants are individually labeled as accurately as possible. Any plants not sold are donated to the Nehemiah Project, a community project to restore and beautify Racine's neighborhoods by planting gardens.

Proceeds from the plant sale benefit the community in a number of ways:

- Grants are awarded semi-annually to community organizations for gardening projects and educational programs. Over \$90,000 has been returned to the community since 1996.

- Scholarships are given annually to several Gateway Technical Institute horticultural students.

- An annual contribution to the Racine Public Library provides updated titles focusing on current trends in gardening

- The sale enables the Club to provide all the material needed to plant and maintain several beds at the Real Racine Visitor Center.

Our 2015 sale will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Regency Mall in Racine. For further information, please contact Marilyn Matelski, President, at [mmatelski@wi.rr.com](mailto:mmatelski@wi.rr.com)

Marilyn Matelski, Club President

The Madison District is having a Spring

## Garden Sale\*

including "new-to-you" hand tools, planting pots & containers, baskets, artful garden décor, and more!

April 25, 2015

8:30 am to 1 pm

Look for us at the

Westside Community Farmers Market

At the Hill Farms Building Parking lot

on the corner of University Ave and Segoe Rd, Madison, WI

For more info, contact Dawn at [dmozgawa@aol.com](mailto:dmozgawa@aol.com)

\*everything but the plants

# CLUB CORNER

## Bangor Garden Club

Other than 20 years of having our annual plant sale, we have in the past made a quilt of the Wisconsin state flower, the violet, and sold raffle tickets and did well on that. We had a public auction and made a total profit of \$2400 all going to the new Bangor First Responders Building. We've had a antique flower show and published cook books, and have had flower shows along with a pie and ice cream social. In the past, we even had bake sales when it was a popular thing. In 2014 our club celebrated 60 years with the WGCF and have had many years of raising money and have donated yearly to our community and elsewhere in the state.

We look forward to the responses to this question so we can get some ideas from other clubs.

JoAnn Sprehn, Club President

The **Sun Prairie Garden Club's** major fundraiser is through the Garden Tour. This year we are trying something new with a Twilight garden tour and then an afternoon garden tour the following day. Funds raised will partially be used for a local young person to attend nature camp.

For Arbor Day the Sun Prairie Garden Club voted on putting in Red Bud Trees at Generations Park. I have Red Bud sprouts in my yard and my neighbors. We will be digging them up and planting them in Generations Park.

Diane Powelka, Club President

The **Lake Wissota Garden Club** holds an annual perennial sale and although this idea is not unique, it is a huge (and only) fundraiser for our club raising over \$4,000 last year. The sale is always held the first Saturday in June from 9:00 a.m. to noon with no "early sales". To prepare for the annual sale; perennials are dug from members gardens; put in recycled pots and kept moist and healthy. We have several flatbed trailers that the plants can be kept on as they are dug. This is especially important as we also go on "digs" at homes that are not members of our club – people call us to "thin" out their gardens. We have a good reputation for having hardy, healthy plants and by June they are usually well-defined.

Our sale is well-organized in the following ways. We have a poster showing what the mature plant and flowers would look like. We also separate the plants by whether they are sun or shade and group all like plants together. For pricing we use colored "tongue depressors" which we stick into the pots both ahead of time (if they come in on one of the flat bed trailers) and the day of the sale. Posters with our pricing system are prominently displayed around the large area. Lake Wissota Garden Club members readily answer any questions and give suggestions especially to "newbie" gardeners. A quick check-out system, knowledgeable and friendly members and of course, healthy plants gain us many customers and repeaters as well. We advertise by the use of posters, craigslist, Main Street, Volume 1, and radio. The colored tongue depressors are recycled for use again the following year. Many people return pots to us which we organize by size and store for the following year.

Linda Bergen, Lake Wissota Garden Club

## Green Thumb Garden Club

# PLANT SALE

**Perennials, herbs & surprises!**

**Friday & Saturday, May 8 & 9, 2015**

**8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Rain or Shine**

*Home of Jim & Sandra Smet*

**552 Vermont, Fond du Lac, 923-6085**

**Hwy. 41 to Hwy. 23 East, north on Peters Ave.,  
east on Scott St. then north on Vermont**

**Enjoy a free tour of Sandra's  
Gardens as you SHOP**

**Green Thumb Garden Club is a nonprofit organization**

<http://greenthumbgardenclub.webs.com/>

## News from around the State.....

### Wisconsin River Garden Club Celebrates 50 Years!!

Wisconsin River Garden Club members are looking forward to a stellar year. A year filled with purchasing new flowers, enjoying the perennials we already have, a new member, and a year full of celebrations. It is our 50th anniversary! Each month the committee has plans to revel around unique programs celebrating our accomplishment.

The program committee has been busy planning for the year's events and will be starting their first celebration in June, with an August event at the museum. There is no better place to celebrate the history of the club than at an institution filled with area history, including that of the Wisconsin Rapids paper companies and cranberry marshes. Former WRGC program books and photo albums will allow guests to reminisce as they page through these records.

Libby Rosandick and her committee, will lead the high-tea celebration with a beautiful dress, hat, gloves and plans to fulfill the entertainment expectations of former members and guests. The menu will include scones, fancy gourmet sandwiches and desserts.

A representative of the museum will highlight specific areas of importance. Additionally, we will have the opportunity to enjoy hearing from a Master Gardener as she presents the landscape history, including the changes in structure, previous and current perennials, and the care involved to maintain the beautiful gardens.

Another day to remember!

Loretta Schoechert Program Chair

### Blue Star Marker - Milwaukee District

Milwaukee District Garden Clubs is proud to report that the placement and landscaping of an area in the Military Field of Valor at the Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee has been completed. The dedication of the Marker and garden took place on November 2, 2013. Additional funds were needed to complete the surrounding landscaped area. Just prior to July 4, 2014, two large blue hydrangeas along with some blue fescue grasses and hosta plants, re-edging of the space and the laying of mulch completed the project.

This was the third marker placed in the greater Milwaukee area by Milwaukee District Garden Clubs and was gifted to the Forest Home Cemetery as it honors the men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in our nation's Armed Forces.

Carole Hopp,

Milwaukee District Blue Star Marker Chair

### Hawthorn Garden Club Celebrates 90th Birthday

This May the Hawthorn Garden Club in Hales Corners will celebrate its 90th birthday making it the oldest garden club in existence in the Milwaukee District.

#### SOME HISTORY

It is noted that we have had garden clubs in Wisconsin dating back to 1865.

They appear to be part of the Horticultural Society that had served the interests of gardeners and fruit growing and commercial growers. In 1928 the State Horticultural Society divided into separate meetings, one for amateur horticulturalists and one for commercial growers. Mr. Huron Smith, a Curator of Botany at the Milwaukee Public Museum served as President in 1928 of the Milwaukee County Horticultural Society and in 1928 held their 'first convention' in Lake Geneva. It is noted that Mr. Huron presided over the meeting in which the Hales Corners Garden Club was one of 11 clubs present to form the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

Mrs. R. H. Malisch of Hales Corners Club became the State President from 1928-30 and served on the Board with Mrs. Caroline Strong, a charter member of the Society and considered to be the founder of garden clubs in Milwaukee, and Mrs. A. W. Sperber also of Hales Corners, the Secretary. Thus the noted history of the existence of what is now the Hawthorn Garden Club.

The club was involved in community projects that spanned from enhancing the Hales Corner Railway Depot to promoting the flowering crab trees still seen throughout the community. The club campaigned in the county for the continuance of the Whitnall Park Arboretum which today we know as Boerner Botanical Gardens, Whitnall Park, and Wehr Nature Center.

We meet once a month on Tuesday afternoons in the Hales Corners Library and we are still active in the community and growing with new members.

ref: State Federation historical records kept by past historians.

Carol Buran



Blue Star Markers at Forest Home Cemetery

### Sugar River Garden Club Celebrates 20 Years !

The Sugar River Gardeners Club in Verona, Wisconsin will have a 20 Year milestone this year. The club was begun by Dawn Mozgawa in the spring of 1995. She had recently moved to Wisconsin from New York State and a very active garden club member there. A "sign-up sheet" at Miller's Grocery Store in Verona gleaned over 30 signatures of interested parties.

The club will celebrate this 20th Anniversary in August with a picnic at Brigham County Park in August.

Judy Niederberger & Dawn Mozgawa, Co-Presidents

### Hill and Dale Garden Club Celebrates 45 Years !

At the first meeting of 2015, which was also a planning meeting, the three original members who are still active in the Garden Club were honored with a floral bouquet. These original members are: Barbara Beres, Shirley Hyer, and Eileen Miller. Two members of our Club are daughters of longtime members.

The Club will also celebrate with a "trip down memory lane" by viewing the scrapbooks and archives of the Club during one of our meetings.

Carla Von Haden, Club President

### WGCF Flower Show

#### Carol Catlin, Local Flower Show School Chair

How about trying to create floral designs for your home or garden club with a flair? Wonder how to do it? WGCF Flower Show School has the answer!!

Learn about the history for floral design and how to design both traditional and creative floral designs. You get to practice doing the designs at the school. A huge part of the curriculum is learning how to judge the designs, too.

Want to know more about growing plants for competition? Flower Show School teaches how to grow plants and how to judge them. Each plant is judged against the idea of what is a perfect specimen of that variety. You will be able to look at your plants in new ways .

Want to have fun with flowers? Flower Show School is just the thing for you. It's fun to play with flowers and observe what members and others like about flowers, too.

The next series of Flower Show School will be starting somewhere in WI soon. Encourage your District to sponsor Flower Show School. Less driving for you!!!

December '15

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					

## Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

# January 2016

February '16

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29							

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10						
17						
24	25					30
31	1	Notes				

**Coming in 2016, a WGCF Calendar featuring YOUR pictures of YOUR gardens, floral designs, landscapes, vegetables, etc. Please submit a high resolution image by August 1, 2015 to Wendy Kramer (remark@baldwin-telecom.net) for possible inclusion in the brand new 2016 WGCF Calendar. Don't have a photo to share? Please send your gardening, floral design or landscaping hints and tips to be included.**

Calendar Templates by Vertex42.com  
<http://www.vertex42.com/calendars/>  
 © 2013 Vertex42 LLC. Free to print.  
[2016 Calendars](#)      [2017 Calendars](#)

## Bird Migration: Help Wanted!!

Dorothy Legler, Birds Chair

Spring migration is going strong, with the various birds stopping in our yards for much needed food ~ and rest from their long journey from the South. Many will be continuing their journey further north or, if the "pickins" are good, will hang out in our yards and gardens for a few days. With the loss of so much habitat, these stopovers are essential for their survival. Most of the warblers, vireos and flycatchers are insect eaters, having thin and needle-pointed bills. They relish the caterpillars and insects in emerging tree leaves, flowering shrubs and other plants. Oaks, Wild Cherry, maple, willow, poplar and birch are good trees that they utilize.

Other migrating birds such as Robins, Blue Jays, Tanagers and Orioles will eat a variety of fruits, berries, insects and seeds. Oranges and jelly are popular with these birds for added energy and nutrition. Many of the sparrow and finch species with the short conical bills are seed eaters. Grassy and brushy areas are important for them.

We can provide some much needed food for these birds by having well-stocked feeding stations. And have many trees,

shrubs, grasses and forbes to provide food, shelter, protection from predators, and provide nesting habitat. The best food sources for birds are native plants.

A water source is needed. It could be a shallow bird bath or a small pond. Dripping or moving water is very attractive to birds. (Caution: Cats are the number one predator of birds! Keep them indoors!).

Most of us love to see and hear the birds each day. Many species are declining, so it's up to us to do everything we can to help them survive. Remember, many of "our" Wisconsin birds are only here for the nesting season. The migratory route, and nesting areas they go to, have to be protected. A walk in the woods just wouldn't be the same if we couldn't hear the flute-like song of a Wood Thrush or Veery, or the cheery song of the American Robin ~ one of the last songs of evening.



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
and  
**CELEBRATIONS**

*It is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the*

**HAWTHORN GARDEN CLUB**

*The oldest existing garden club  
in the Milwaukee District*

*To be held May, 2015*

*By the current members, officers, and guests*

*Hales Corners, Wisconsin*

## "Where The Wild Things Grow"

**A Small Standard Flower Show**

**Presented on July 11, 2015  
10:00am — 5:00pm**

**By the  
Paper Valley Garden Club**

**at the  
Wild Center Of the Wild Ones  
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd.  
Neenah, WI 54956**



**In conjunction with the  
Homeless Connections An-  
nual Garden Walk**

**Ticket \$3.00 for the Flower Show Only or  
\$15 for the entire Garden Walk**

## Recommendations to be voted on by the Membership at Annual Meeting at 88th Convention

Organizational Studies Committee recommends the following By-Law changes:

### ARTICLE VI OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND METHODS OF ELECTION

Section 4 b) now reads: Directors shall not serve on the WGCF Board of Directors in any other capacity concurrently with the position of District Director.

**Change:** Delete b) of Section 4 of the By-Laws in its entirety.

Section 4. Renumber c) to b)

### ARTICLE XII NOMINATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Section 3 a) "To be eligible for the office of First Vice-President, a nominee shall have served as a member of the Executive committee for a minimum of two years prior to the election"

**Change:** Delete Executive Committee and insert Board of Directors

Section 3a) To read "To be eligible for the office of First Vice-President, a nominee shall have served as a member of the Board of Directors for a minimum of two years prior to the election."

*(Editor's Note: The Recommendation listed below was printed in the Winter Issue of Wisconsin Gardens. It is reprinted so that Members who attend the Annual Meeting will only need to bring along this issue for the discussion and voting at Convention.)*

### ARTICLE VI STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

Section 8: a) **Delete:** Beginning in 2014, the President will appoint two members for a three year term.

**Change to:** The President/President Elect shall appoint a new member or members to serve for three years, replacing the retiring member or members, with the approval of the Board of Directors. Appointments to be made annually by the President-elect in the odd-numbered years and by the President in the even-numbered years.

**Rationale:** The President has already appointed the two members in 2014 to establish a fourth member cycle, so this is no longer relevant.

## Horticulture

**Nancy Gotham, Chair**

### KALANCHOE

The genus Kalanchoe includes more than 100 plants, but only a few are seen in cultivation. They are native to dry areas and are popular succulents. Newer hybrids are valued for their interesting leaf-forms or for their flowers available in red, pink, yellow or white.

Kalanchoe are easy to grow, but be careful not to overwater. Ideal growing conditions are:

1. **Light:** They prefer a bright sunny location.
2. **Water:** Water moderately through summer. Reduce watering in winter. Watch the fleshy leaves for any signs of water distress.
3. **Temperature:** They prefer warmth. Do not let the temperature fall below 55 degrees.
4. **Soil:** Any ordinary potting soil will be fine.
5. **Fertilizer:** Feed bi-weekly in the summer with a liquid fertilizer, or use slow-release pellets.

Propagation is very easy. Many kinds of Kalanchoe will produce tiny plantlets along the leaf margins that can be individually potted.

These include Kalanchoe pinnata beharensis .

The most popular Kalanchoe is Kalanchoe blossfeldiana; it has very large flower heads in a variety of colors.

Other varieties are 'Sunny Skies' with yellow blooms, 'Pink Inspirations' with pink blossoms, 'Angel Inspirations' with a white bloom.

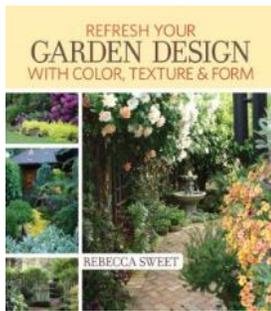
In summertime outdoor planters, Kalanchoe are a beautiful addition to the mix of plants. Its blooms are long-lasting and can be moved indoors prior to outdoor frosts. Super Markets now sell them as well as nurseries and are moderately priced. Try one.

Happy Gardening!



## Book Review

by Kay Villa



### *Refresh Your Garden Design with Color, Texture, & Form*

Rebecca Sweet, Horticulture Books, 2013, Suggested Retail \$19.99

Is your garden looking tired, unbalanced, or not quite what you envisioned? Then check out this book to help redesign, refresh, and recreate your Eden.

The book guides you through a process of studying your garden to look at it anew. The author suggests taking black and white photographs to filter out the effect of color to clearly see the forms and textures in your garden. The book also highlights how color and its echoes can be used to tie all parts of the garden together; and sometimes it's as simple as switching out the color temperature of a specific plant (reddish blue vs. greenish blue plant). Gardens should also reflect the personali-

ty of the owner and one of the most effective ways to do this is to pick your favorite colors. These should be colors you love and the obvious first place to look for clues is your wardrobe.

Garden texture includes the tactile feel of a plant along with its visual appearance and the sounds it creates. Texture can be used to create optical illusions in the garden. Perhaps you want to give your garden more breathing room or make it feel larger; then you should use open and airy foliage. Do you want to bring more brightness in to dark corners? Then use white and yellow edged plants. Or do you want to create intimate area within in a large space? Then place large architectural plants along the front borders. The feel of the garden can also be altered by your choice of hardscaping and plants. Crazy quilt angled paving stones and loose flowers infuse a cottage feel; while Italianate columns with perfectly cut rectangular stone paver imply a formal garden. The last subject the author explores is form or the bones of the garden focusing on the layout, structure, and composition of the garden and how it relates to your home. The book also includes a large list of plant picks based on color, texture, and form.

It's fun to deconstruct and rebuild to create a new space. Use this book as a tool to guide you through that process.

## Membership Promotion

**Donita Bruder, Chair**

Here are some ideas for promoting your Club:

1. Place ads in newspapers
2. Put flyers, in stores and other places
3. Talk to your neighbors, and give them a flyer
4. When you have a garden walk, sale or flower show, have an informational flyer about your club and put out a sign up sheet for interested people.
5. When you have a special program, invite people to attend.
6. Have an open house and invite people.
7. If you have an event where guests attend, have club members sit with new people.

Talk up your club, good luck with getting new members.

## Club Presidents:

The question for our next issue of Wisconsin Gardens for Club Corner will be: Please share ideas of how you and your club have encouraged others to join your club. What are you doing to increase membership?

## Check us out on Facebook!

We have a Facebook site as Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. "Like" us!!

The Garden Clubs of Elm Grove,  
Elmbrook & Mayfair Park Present...

**Tour  
Le  
Jardin**



**Saturday - July 18, 2015  
10 am to 4 pm**

**For tickets contact:**

<http://www.elmgrovegardenclub.com/tour-le-jardin---garden-walk.html>

**Diane Olsen at [TourLeJardin@gmail.com](mailto:TourLeJardin@gmail.com)**

**or 414-578-2513**

**\$8 in advance, \$10 at Gardens**

**– No Rain Date –**

## Operation Wildflower - Trees

### Diane Powelka, Operation Wildflower Chair

If you have an Ash tree, like we do, you might want to take the time and do your research on a replacement. The Emerald Ash Borer is racing across Wisconsin, killing Ash trees right and left.

To do their best, trees need to be in an area well suited for them to grow (shade or full sun, tolerant of road salt, etc.). It is advisable not to plant the same variety of tree close together or in the same area. This practice makes the tree an easy target for disease or insects to attack. That was, and is the problem with the Dutch Elm disease, Oak Wilt and now Emerald Ash Borer. I know other trees are susceptible to disease or insect damage, but varying your species reduces the chance of loss of entire areas of trees that are all the same.

What to plant? Be sure you don't plant a tree just like your neighbors or an area that has a lot of the same trees. Height of the tree canopy, sunlight or shade, spacing of the tree roots should also be considered. Some trees have fruit or seedlings that can be a problem. Male trees do not have these problems associated with them but they can sometimes cause allergies.

Where should you look for a tree? The Arboretums have a wide selection of trees. It would be a great walk and you can get a good look at the size of the mature tree. Write down the ones you are interested in and check your native tree book to follow up on your selection. Finding the tree you want is not an easy task at times but it is worth the challenge of getting a tree that will replace your Ash tree.

Here are a few to look for:

Sugar Maple  
Slippery Elm  
Bitternut Hickory  
Shagbark Hickory  
Bur Oak  
Basswood  
Ironwood  
Black Cherry  
Hackberry  
American Beech  
White Oak  
Kentucky Coffee Tree  
White Birch



Good luck and Thank you.

### The Spooner Garden Club

welcomes you to

#### WGCF 2015 Convention, "Take it to the Lake"

May 28-30, 2015~Barker's Island~Superior Wisconsin

We invite you to visit these interesting attractions along the way!



- The Potters Shed, [www.thePottersShed.com](http://www.thePottersShed.com)  
260 Industrial Blvd, Shell Lake, WI
- Bashaw Valley Farm and Greenhouse,  
[www.bashawvalley.com](http://www.bashawvalley.com)  
W7402 Fox Trail, Shell Lake, WI
- Yellow River Gardens, [www.yellowrivergardens.com](http://www.yellowrivergardens.com)  
Highway 70, just west of Spooner, WI

## NGC LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

### EDUCATION Makes THE Difference

Judy Newman,

WGCF NGC Life Membership Chair

As we become parents, grandparents and admiring friends of special people in our lives and garden clubs, there will be times when we wish to honor someone who shares our love of gardening. And that will be the moment we decide to choose the perfect gift for that "special someone".

Your choice of giving the gift of a National Life Membership will demonstrate to them your appreciation of their commitment to the youth of our nation, the future leaders of our world. Your gift of \$200 to become a Life Member is shared equally by the Scholarship fund and the Permanent Home Endowment Fund.

The recipient will receive a life-time subscription to *The National Gardener* and may attend the National Life Member Banquet at all Conventions.

The new Application form issued by this Administration may be obtained from National, Regional or State Life Membership Chairmen or going to NGC website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

REMEMBER: Special Garden Club members, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Graduations, Valentine's Day.

Looking forward to processing your Applications.

## Habitat Happenings

**Barbara Wesley, Chair**

While Wisconsin gardens were sleeping, exciting events were being planned. The Girl Scouts from St. Matthias parish are again planning to plant hanging baskets for homeowners. The flowers and soil are also paid for out of their funds.

How can you help if you have no Habitat District Project? You might send a cash donation to the troops to help defray their cost. We are all delighted to contribute to a "pass the hat" effort.

Milwaukee District members are generous and pot many perennials. Northwestern Mutual sends hundreds of tulip bulbs to be cleaned and bagged for sharing with homeowners and members. Kitty Larkin, Lynne Ehnert, Diane Olsen and Donita Bruder are experts at this. Judy Newman has also spent countless hours advising and helping to design and plant gardens.

I was excited to speak to Bev Meyer of the Blue Star Garden Club in Rothschild, WI. A small group from the Fox River Valley District help a new Habitat homeowner to

landscape their entire yard. In a recent letter, Bev wrote "the Blue Star Garden Club, has been helping our local Habitat organization for a number of years. Every summer two new homes are built in the area. As Habitat nears the completion of the home, Blue Star Garden Club members help each family plan and design flowerbed areas around their new yard."

When planting day arrives, club members teach volunteers and family members how to construct, plant and put finishing touches on beautiful flowerbeds in their yard. Each family is presented with a booklet identifying the plants in their garden and how to care for them throughout the seasons.

Be creative. Don't miss out on beautifying the world around us.



## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk

**Saturday, July 11, 2015  
9-4, Rain or Shine**

No children under 10, no strollers & no pets

Featuring CHRISTOPHER FARM & GARDENS a privately owned 400-acre property which includes farm gardens, a children's educational farm, garden art, water features and honey bees

**Admission: \$15 per ticket/\$25 for two**

Information on website:  
sheboygangardeners.com or contact  
Susan Steinpreis [gardengalsue@charter.net](mailto:gardengalsue@charter.net)



**Special thanks  
to all Indianhead District members  
who have worked to make  
"Take It To The Lake" a reality.**

*Your team spirit is awesome!*

*Go Team!!*



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### APRIL

- 10-11 Environmental Studies School, Mequon  
Series V, Course 3
- 14-15 Landscape Design School, Madison  
Series X, Course 3

### MAY

- 12-15 NGC Convention, Louisville, KY
- 28-30 WGCF Convention, Superior

### JUNE

- 11 WGCF Board Meeting, Madison
- 11 Leadership Conference, Madison

### SEPTEMBER

- 18-19 Environmental Studies School, Mequon  
Series V, Course 4
- 23-24 Landscape Design School, Madison  
Series X, Course 4

### OCTOBER

- 3-5 Central Region Convention, Cedar Rapids, IA

## WGCF President's Tour 2015

- |          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| April 21 | Sheboygan District        |
| April 30 | St. Croix District        |
| May 2    | Coulee District           |
| May 20   | Madison District          |
| May 21   | Fox River Valley District |
| May 30   | Indianhead District       |
| June 9   | Milwaukee District        |

## IN MEMORIAM

### Marjorie E. Snow

The Indianhead District and Spooner Garden Club are sad to announce the death of our dear gardening friend, Marjorie Snow who passed away in November 2014.

Marge joined Spooner Garden Club in 1961, and she was an active member for 52 years, including serving as president and secretary. She was always willing to share her plants, her knowledge, and her joyful spirit. She was a very talented flower arranger, winning many ribbons, and an outstanding gardener. She was also a dedicated member of her church and served on the Spooner Library Board for many years. She loved working in her garden and watching the sun rise over Spooner Lake. She will be sadly missed by the Spooner Garden Club and the Indianhead District.

### With Deepest Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Mary Spoehr & her family on the death of her husband, Milton Spoehr, who passed away in January 2015. Mary was a founder of the Grow 'Em and Show 'Em Garden Club of Berlin. She was an NGC Flower Show Judge, an excellent designer, and a longstanding member of WGCF. She was also a member of Northeast Judges Council.



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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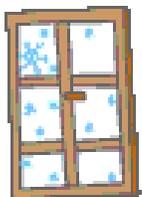
wisconsinclub.org

## Deadline for Summer Issue: June 1, submissions Welcome

Publication approximately July 1, delivery by July 15

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

**Coming in the Summer 2014: Awards, Convention Report, Tri-Council, Judges' Council, Memorials and Tributes, Landscape Design Schools, Web Page, Books, Horticulture, Membership Promotion. Articles also needed by general members, please consider writing about your garden, activities, club projects, etc. Tell us how you spend your summer days.**



Looking out my window recently, I noticed a squirrel feverishly trying to pull a piece of landscape fabric out of my garden. As the squirrel pulled and tugged at that fabric which had become exposed by the winter winds, I was scolding myself for not putting more mulch onto the fabric. The more I watched his attempts, the more enjoyment I got from thinking about the resourcefulness of that squirrel. What a nest will be built for the squirrel family - perhaps there will even be an awning or roof for their nest?!!

While contemplating the ingenuity of that squirrel, my thoughts drifted to some of my own plans for this year's gardens. In recent months, I have attended several workshops and classes, and heard of many new gardening methods - and like that squirrel, I'm wondering which methods I will be tugging with and putting into practice. What a wealth of information one can gain from WGCF classes, Garden Expos, and reading the latest books and magazines. Perhaps you've had that same experience - which of those new ideas will we try? Will some of us try the straw bale gardening, trench gardening or lasagna gardening?? Will some of us incorporate more plants for the pollinators, or try the newest annuals or perennials? Are there others of us who will try more vertical gardening or square foot gardening?

The answer is quite simple - I will try a few new things, you may try a different new method, and then we will compare notes and share our ideas through our local clubs, district meetings, at garden walks and plant sales. As a speaker mentioned at a recent program, "Take the best ideas from what I've told you and then make it into your own." Perhaps some of you would even like to write an article to share a new method that you try in your garden this summer (Hint, hint - we are always looking for new ideas to share through Wisconsin Gardens.)

May you be as resourceful and determined as the squirrel I've been watching as you tug at new ideas to create your own wonderful gardens this year!

*Carla*

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