



Volume 69, Issue 2
Spring 2018

Wisconsin Gardens

RIVER RENDEZVOUS

**A Gathering for Gardeners hosted by St. Croix District
Friday-Saturday – October 12-13, 2018**

By Ginger Wierman, St. Croix District Director

St. Croix District will be hosting the 2018 **Gathering for Gardeners** at the Water Street Inn in Stillwater, MN on Friday and Saturday, October 12–13, 2018.

The historic 1890's Water Street Inn, our “gathering” headquarters, blends the ambiance of an era gone by with the comforts of modern amenities. Located in the heart of a nationally registered historic district in this picturesque St. Croix River town, the inn sits within walking distance of the city's quaint shops and riverwalks.

River Rendezvous events begin in Houlton, WI **Friday morning** with the dedication of our WGCFF President's project, the Blue Star marker and Loop Trail gardens to honor our veterans. Next we gather on the shores of the St. Croix and board a riverboat for a leisurely cruise, lunch buffet and program about our rivers by Monica Zachary, Land & Water Director, St. Croix River Association.

Friday afternoon we return to the Water Street Inn for a seminar from Monarch Joint Venture communications specialist Cora Lund Preston or you can spend the afternoon touring Aamondt Apple Orchard and tasting the fruit of the vine at St. Croix Vineyards.

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Gather at the reception **Friday evening** before you enjoy a sumptuous meal in the ballroom and a floral design program by Ardith Beveridge, Director of Education at Koehler and Dramm's Institute of Floristry in Minneapolis, MN. Ardith has designed for the Tournament of Roses Parade and for the last five Presidential Inaugurations.

Saturday you will choose from an array of speakers & hands-on workshops:

-Lynn Steiner - a frequent contributor to Northern Gardener

-Diana Alfuth - UW Extension educator for Pierce & St. Croix counties and landscape design teacher at UW-River Falls (jumping worm update)

-Marcie Forsberg - Co-executive Director of Pollinator Friendly Alliance

-Heather Holm - author of Pollinators of Native Plants and Bees

-Peter Juhl - artist & author Center of Gravity: A Guide to the Practice of Rock Balancing

(continued on page 3)

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 2017-2019 Officers:

President: Peggy Grubbs

2350 80th St.
New Richmond, WI 54017-6234
651-303-8780
peggymcgrubbs@aol.com

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NGC President: Nancy Hargroves

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

A Message from our President

Spring! What a wonderful thought! It's been a long hard winter with very cold temperatures here in northern Wisconsin. We are anxious to see how our hundreds of fruit trees, shrubs and vines fared. As we all know gardening is a challenge every year as our seasons and weather seem to be changing on a regular basis.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our Annual Meeting in Wausau on April 26th. This is an important part of our organization's function. The annual operating budget will be presented and voted on as will other issues affecting WGCF. We need your thoughts! Each club gets a voice in this process. Please plan to attend.



We will have a team of members available during the Annual Meeting to get every club signed up to be able to receive \$250 seed money from Thrivent to "Garden for Good". We will walk you through the steps to get it done. Every member of your club can be qualified to receive this money. If all members of each club were to do this, \$275,000 would be available to jump-start individual club programs. Just think about that for a moment!

We are working to make a simpler login possible for our Members Only section of the website. This will be done soon, and everyone will receive the new information. We are also going to add an interactive map to the website that will show people just where our clubs are in the state. Our website is receiving many inquiries about how to join a club, where they are and contact information.

I encourage all who have Facebook pages to "like" the WGCF Facebook page. This will give you up-to-date information about what other clubs are doing in the state. It will also be a forum for your clubs to showcase what they are doing. My hats are off to the clubs of the Indianhead District for their postings. They are inspiring with all that they do and post!

In May, I will be attending the National Garden Clubs convention in Philadelphia. They have many outstanding seminars that will help us "Garden for Good". I look forward to sharing the information with you upon my return.

I know that your clubs and districts are doing fine work. The newsletters that I receive clearly show that. I encourage all clubs and districts to share that information, and your newsletters with our webmaster so that they can be featured on our website.

Let's continue to plan our projects as we "Garden for Good".

*Fondly,
Peggy*

ADVERTISING RATES

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

River Rendezvous (continued)

Jenn Howland – founder, Fleur de Louise Flower Studio (autumn wreath workshop)

Sandy Madsen – a Master Gardener (school gardens)

Jason Pruett – owner of Treehugger Tree Care (pruning)

Deb Walters – President Botany Belles & Beaus Garden Club, WGCF Webmaster (bird seed wreath workshop)

A “**horticulture only**” flower show will be organized at our Gathering For Gardeners (GFG) by the Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota, Inc., members and will open Saturday morning. FGC-MN is cooperating with WGCF on our 2018 GFG. They bring a wealth of talent and Minnesota networking opportunities to our Northwest Wisconsin event. We hope to see many FGC-MN members in attendance at our 2018 GFG and participating in future events in our Northwest corner of Wisconsin.

FGC-MN President, Bonnie Schwichtenberg, an active GFG steering committee member, recruited our **Saturday banquet** speaker Fred Rozumalski, landscape ecologist & architect from the Twin Cities & a University of Minnesota Landscape Design faculty member who will speak on sustainable landscape design. Bonnie has also designed the art/logo for our 2018 Gathering For Gardeners.

If you are planning a Fall 2018 Wisconsin “stay-cation” this just might be it. Hoping to see you there.

Tri-Council News

By **Vern Lowell**, Tri-Council Chair

The Tri-Council Executive Committee met in Wausau February 14, 2018 to consider and plan for activities from now thru Fall 2020.

This year’s Tri-Council Annual Meeting will be a dinner plus Annual Meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn, Rothschild, WI on April 25, 2018. Dinner will be “dutch treat” beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will order from the menu in our private dining room. Our Annual business meeting will follow in the same room. Expect to adjourn about 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. Email Carol Bessler, cbessie@wi.rr.com with your plan to attend.

Our main responsibility for WGCF is planning for and supporting the Garden Studies, Landscape Design and Environmental Schools. Coupled with Floral Design Schools, we like to have two schools operating in any given calendar year. We finished Environmental and Gardening Studies in 2017. Floral Design School will begin in 2018. We will begin Environmental School in Madison September 21 and 22, 2018. Watch for details to register in the summer issue of *Wisconsin Gardens*. Madison is rich in environmental resources. You will not want to miss this school. We will begin the next Landscape Design School in the Fall of 2020. St Croix District, where we have not held a school for quite a while, has agreed to host that school. New landscapes to visit, new instructors to learn from and, perhaps, some new gardeners for you to get to know or reconnect with.

Tri-Council has often sponsored “summer outings” of educational and social significance for our members. Any member of WGCF or friend of a member, is always welcome. We will forgo a summer outing this year and save our energy and travels for the Gathering for Gardeners event being planned for October 12-13, 2018 in the St. Croix District. Highlights would be for us to attend the Dedication of the 2018-2019 President’s Project Friday and the St. Croix River Cruise on Saturday. We will get together for breakfast Saturday morning for our second “Annual Meeting”. Email Carol Bessler, cbessie@wi.rr.com with your plan to attend.

WGCF will be hosting the NGC Convention in 2020 in Milwaukee. Members of Tri-Council are currently gearing up to host a Tri-Refresher for national and international members in conjunction with that meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

Flower Show School
May 1-3 Sheboygan
By Julie Schoenike

Ivy League Garden Club will offer WGCF Flower Show School I, on May 1-3, 2018 at Maywood Environmental Park, Sheboygan, WI. Judy Newman will instruct Horticulture for daffodils, aloe and Flower Show Procedure on May 1st and Helen Surridge will instruct Design on May 2nd.

Daffodils are needed from all growing zones of the state. Bring your daffodils!

It is highly recommended that all current judges, including those who hold master status, take Course I again now that the new handbook is available with so many new changes.

A map, registration form and directions can be found on the WGCF website.

Registrar: Lynnette, 920-946-1673. Deadline is April 30th.

Judges: Wisconsin Judges Council will hold their annual dinner meeting on May 2nd at Rupp's, downtown Sheboygan at 5:30 p.m., 925 N. 8th Street, Sheboygan.

Housing is available at: Quality Inn, 4332 North 40th Street, phone: 920-457-7724.

Following the school, there will be a Daffodil Show held on May 5th and 6th at Maywood sponsored by The Midwest Daffodil Society and Town and Country Garden Club. Anyone who grows daffodils may enter on Friday, May 4th from 5:00 -9:00 p.m. or on Saturday, May 5th from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Free Admission for the Daffodil Show

WGCF Standing Rules

By Gerianne Holzman, Chair, Organizational Studies

What is the difference between Standing Rules and Bylaws? According to Robert's Rules of Order, standing rules (or rules of operation or standard operating procedures) are "motions or resolutions governing the actions of an organization." In other words, these are rules that are concerned with the day-to-day working of an organization as long as they do not conflict with the Bylaws. The Standing Rules may be voted upon and amended by the executive committee at any business meeting without prior notice. Bylaws, on the other hand, are defined as of such importance they cannot be changed without previous notice and must be presented at the organization's annual meeting. Bylaws are the most important legal document of an organization. They establish and protect the rights and specify the duties of members, executive committee members and the board of directors.

The WGCF Standing Rules have been updated and can be found on the website under the Members' Only section. Currently the organizational studies committee is reviewing the standing rules and bylaws to determine if all information needed by members is in the correct place and if further changes to committee charges need to be made.

**The Garden Clubs of Elm Grove
& Mayfair Park
Present...**

**Tour
Le
Jardin**



**Saturday - July 21, 2018
10 am to 4 pm**

**For tickets contact Nancy Patterson at
tourlejardin@gmail.com or 414-257-2583**

\$8 in advance, \$10 at Gardens

Advance tickets available at Elm Grove's
Welke's House of Roses, Snapdragon Flowers
and Sunset Playhouse

- No Rain Date -

Call to Annual WGCF Meeting

April 26

All Clubs are encouraged to attend and vote.

The annual meeting of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation will be held on Thursday, April 26th at the Holiday Inn, in Rothschild, WI. It is right outside of Wausau. We chose this center of the state location to make it easier for all members to get to with the least amount of driving. This meeting is an important part of our organization's function. It is held each year to conduct business. If your club wants to really know what is going on, plan to attend. Each club gets a vote. Make your voice heard and your vote count by attending this important meeting. WGCF Grants winners will be announced at this meeting as will the WGCF Award winners. Come cheer your fellow gardeners on!

In 2015, the WGCF board of directors voted to approve a 2-year trial, beginning in 2017 to have an annual business meeting in place of a convention. In addition, it was approved to have a Gathering for Gardeners to replace the educational and fellowship part of the convention as part of this two-year trial. Last fall, the first Gathering for Gardeners was held in WI Dells. The 2018 GFG will be held October 12-13 in Stillwater, MN. We are hosting this event with the MN Federation of Garden Clubs.



REGISTRATION FOR WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION 91ST ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 26, 2018 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

at the Holiday Inn 1000 Imperial Avenue, Rothschild, WI

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

District _____ Club _____

Please check any that apply: WGCF Officer Club Delegate Club Alternate Other
 Member WGCF Board of Directors Member

WGCF Annual Meeting registration, hot buffet luncheon and afternoon break: \$36 Meeting registration

Deadline is April 12, 2016.

Please send registration form and check, made out to WGCF, for \$36 to:

Mary Jane Hull, Treasurer 709 Brookstone Crest, Mount Horeb, WI 53572

We hope to see you there!

News from Clubs around the State

Lake Wissota Garden Club

By Barb Barrickman

Learning about floral design has always been one of the objectives of the Lake Wissota Garden Club. We have been blessed to have the experience and knowledge of three members who have been very involved in the floral design world. Karen Allen and Muriel Shervey are Emeritus Master Accredited Flower Show Judges. Both have been active through the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and the National Garden Club in judging flower shows as well as designing beautiful floral arrangements to participate in flower shows. Helen Corbett, another longtime member, has been a successful floral designer and participant in numerous flower shows. Each of them has presented frequently at our monthly meetings instructing members on different aspects of floral design.

Besides hosting and participating in numerous floral and horticultural shows throughout the past 40 years, Lake Wissota Garden Club also has a standing committee that provides floral arrangements for the Heyde Center for the Arts in Chippewa Falls. The arrangements are changed seasonally and have graced the entrance foyer for years.

We have also learned under the tutelage of Carolyn Craig of the St. Croix District and Carol Larson of the Indian-head District as they hosted day long floral design seminars in the past few years. Both of these women are Master Accredited Flower Show Judges and successful floral designers both regionally and nationally. These seminars have given members of both districts knowledge and inspiration to continue to learn and practice the art of floral design.

So, it was with this knowledge and encouragement that four members of the Lake Wissota Garden Club participated in the Fabulous Florals and Fine Art exhibit held at the Janet Carson Art Gallery in downtown Eau Claire January 17-22. Sandra Kenner, Debbie Roshell, Karen Allen and Barb Barrickman took on the challenge. The exhibit sponsored by the Eau Claire Regional Arts Center is historically one of the most visited at the gallery. Who doesn't want to see a room full of fresh flowers in mid-January? Area floral designers, most from local florist shops, interpret a piece of fine art ranging from paintings to weavings to pottery to woodworking. Although somewhat stressful to place our designs next to professional floral designer's works we found that we did well. Having an opportunity to grow in our floral design studies was fun, a learning experience and a proud moment for each of us.



Deb Roshell interpreted "Cormorant Sunset", an acrylic by Judy Dekan (photo above). Karen Allen's interpretation of a beautiful wooded landscape was highly commended (right).



Sandy Kenner's design interpreted Erin O'Brien's "Summer Light" done in silk paints on silk (photo above). Karen Bejin's watercolor "Strawberries and Limes" was interpreted by Barb Barrickman (right).



Lake Shore Garden Club

By Doris Weber

Lake Shore Garden Club celebrated its 69th Anniversary in WGCF on February 22nd, 2018 with a luncheon at Fountain Park Restaurant, Sheboygan. As our members arrived, attire included their favorite memorable apron. If not, they chose one of the 60-plus aprons the committee had on display from their own collections.

A program followed with the history and modeling of 60 aprons from the 1920's thru modern times. The program was entitled "Aprons: Apron Strings Tie Us To The Past". There were two parts to the presentation. One was an explanation of the history of aprons, being worn since the 13th century. The second part was the actual modeling of aprons primarily for workdays, everyday, and then fancy.

Marie Schwinn was credited for compiling the information and the PowerPoint given out at the luncheon. Mary Olson, Nancy Wagner, Doris Weber and Marie Schwinn were club members who took turns reading and explaining the info about the aprons. Modeling the 60 aprons were the four members mentioned above and also members Donna Eirich and Betty Froemming.

All members enjoyed this program and these same members will present the program again at the Sheboygan County Historical Museum for their October program and also for Sheboygan County Quilters at a date to be announced.

Lake Shore Garden Club President Doris Weber also presented awards for many years of continuing service in Lake Shore Garden Club to Rogene Brott-10 years, Char Travis-15 years and Barb Schneiderhan -25years. All three have helped the club in many fields, tasks, events, leadership, and support. We greatly appreciate all their hard work.



Aprons were modeled by: (left to right) Nancy Wagner, Doris Weber, Donna Eirich, Marie Schwinn, Mary Olson and Betty Froemming.

Botany, Belles and Beaus Garden Club

Celebrating 50 Years!

By Debby Walters

In 1968, several interested women met to form a garden club. Their stated goal: "To draw together individuals who, by their common interest in things beautiful and constructive, and their desire to learn more in the field of horticulture and arranging, endeavor to share their ideas with each other and thereby benefit their local community." Thus the Botany Belles (not yet & Beaus) was born. There were 14 members and yearly dues were \$1.00. Carolyn Craig welcomed the club into the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation in October of 1969.

The mission of the club remains the same today. Twenty-two members share their common interest in gardening, learn from each other, and serve the community. The club is active! With members from Baldwin, Woodville, Spring Valley, Wilson, Hammond, and Emerald, the Botany Belles and Beaus serves central St. Croix County.

This summer the club has planned several extras to celebrate this big birthday: Think Trees (a project open to community members where they can purchase a native tree for \$50), a bus tour to Marilyn Saffert's gardens in Rice Lake and Winter Green house (open to all local gardeners and garden clubs), community garden tour featuring club members' gardens on July 14th, a small standard flower show titled "Celebrating 50 Years" on September 28 and 29, a booth at the Farmer's Market to invite people to join us plus articles in the local papers, and special displays to use at area events. An already busy summer gardening season just became a bit busier! If you are in the area, please join us!

Grandma's Apron

Author Unknown

Sometimes when she was cooking and the stove was very hot
She'd wrap the apron 'round her hand and peek into the pot
When she baked sugar cookies and she made them by score
The apron kept her hands from getting burnt against the door
One time my baby kitten got run over in the street
The corner of her apron wiped the tears from off my cheek
When unexpected neighbors came (a clean house was a must)
The apron gave the tables a quick swipe to hide the dust
The apron waved about her head to Grandpa on the farm
Meant "Hurry home! The cows are in the corn!"
Oh, how I loved the pockets in the apron Grandma wore
Sometimes she'd take me on her lap and then I could explore
There were buttons, marbles, a tiny car, a penny, a piece of string
A tack, two nails, a picture book-I could find most anything
But when I fell and hurt my knee and Grandma held me close
And wrapped me in her apron, that's when I loved it most.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

June 3-9, 2018

Sponsored by
National Garden Clubs, Inc.



National Gardener

By Doris Weber

Please consider a subscription to the “National Gardener” magazine which I find packed with lots of gardening news and ideas. It features information on what garden clubs all over the country are accomplishing in their respective areas. This magazine also offers a great way to reinforce all the options and benefits of our national organization and the many schools scheduled throughout the U.S. I usually find one or more articles that I can use at one of our garden club meetings or articles that some members may find interesting to read. To subscribe, call 1-800-550-6007 or use the NGC website and download a subscription form at www.gardenclub.org

Share your Good News & Programs

Garden Clubs are invited to share news about your programs and club activities by submitting them to our webmaster Debby Walters and sending them for inclusion in issues of Wisconsin Gardens.

Submit articles to: wisconsingardens@centurytel.net
and to Webmaster Debby Walters: vikingms76@gmail.com

National Garden Week

By Doris Weber

This year National Garden Week begins on Sunday, June 3rd and celebrations last thru Saturday, June 9th, 2018. Proclaimed by NGC Inc., this special week is designed to focus public attention and all garden club members on various fun-filled events. They include special programs, garden teas, plant sales, garden walks and tours, luncheons, bus trips, displays in public places promoting this special week, bus trips, participation in parades, and other garden related projects. Any of these events should invite gardening friends, neighbors, and others to join in the fun. It's sure to keep the garden spirit and garden club membership growing in all our communities and into the future.

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

The Racine Garden Club
Presents the:

2018 Summer Magic Garden Tour

Sunday, July 8
(rain or shine)

10 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.

Seven Private Gardens
in the Racine Area

Tickets
\$8 in advance/\$10 at the gardens Tour Day

For more information go to
www.racinegardenclub.org



The Winners of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Awards for 2017 have been selected and will be announced at the Annual Meeting, April 26 in Rothschild, Wisconsin. Receiving an award from WGCF is both exciting AND rewarding. Although there are still some trophies and certificates that are presented, many of the awards have been changed to monetary awards.

Last year, Awards were given an update by WGCF, Central Region and National Garden Club, Inc. New categories, new awards, new challenges and more money.

There are thousands of dollars available...

Want to be a winner? Here are a few tips that might help your club enter and win some WGCF, Central Region and National Garden Club Inc. awards.

HOT TIPS FOR COLD CASH

1. Think about the possibilities of award entries when you plan your programs for next year. Award categories can spur your imagination in program planning and projects.
2. Get your members on board. Have them take pictures of all stages of your events and projects so you have documentation for your entries. Photos are easy to take with smartphones.
3. Read the award descriptions and rules now so you know what you need and are ready to put your entry together.
4. Value your work! Garden Club members are hard-working volunteers. Honor that work by applying for awards to recognize all that you and your members do.
5. **Enter** - Send your entries to the appropriate chairperson by deadline dates. It is not that difficult to prepare most entries and the benefit could be well worth the effort.

If you have any questions about preparing your applications, please call or email me.
Char Schulze, WGCF Awards Chair 262-796-0421 or cers39@aol.com.

National Garden Club Plant America Program

National Garden Clubs is proud to introduce our newest promotion to grow the Plant America Grant Program. This promotion, entitled **Inspiring Gardens Across America**, includes three different collections of plants selected by P. Allen Smith. Each item was chosen for the special features in its hybridization for performance or beauty, or for its limited availability in the general marketplace. The choices are: (1) Double Flowering Daylily Collection; (2) Succulents and Whitewashed Wooden Stand; (3) Sunpatiens 'Razzle Dazzle' Collection.

Please note that select plant items will be shipped when it is appropriate for your growing zone.

Information is available on the National Garden Club website at www.gardenclub.org



Visitors to Wisconsin's Garden Expo which is held in Madison in February each year were delighted to view the beautiful floral designs created by members of Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.
Photos by Dawn Mozgawa & Laura Skoff



President's Project 2007-2011

Robert W. Monk Gardens

Lucy Valitchka and Judy Pitcher

In 2004 Robert W. Monk gave 16 acres of wooded land, located on the northeast side of Wausau, Wisconsin to be used for an “educational botanical garden”.

Lucy Valitchka and Judy Pitcher chose the Monk Garden, Wildflower and Meditation Area as the President's Project for their terms covering 2007-2011.

The project was approved by Wisconsin Garden Club Federation to join Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc in encouraging members to grow native plants. This was the first presidents' project to take place in Wausau. Donations helped fund planting of native shrubs, trees and wildflowers.

A goal of \$10,000 was set for the four years covering Lucy & Judy's terms. As of the spring 2011 issue of *Wisconsin Gardens* Claire Aziz, who coordinated the fundraising for the project, reported we surpassed our goal. A total of \$14,874.20 was donated by members and friends of WGCF. Our thanks to Sara Vetter who coordinated the project the first two years with Claire. For those of you who live in the Wausau area you will see that Claire not only helped with the fundraising for the Monk Garden, she continues to this day to be a valuable volunteer at the Monk Gardens. We thank her for her dedication.

In 2017 the last of the monies donated by WGCF members was used to buy a Robert C. Anderson Kaleidoscope sculpture. It is located near the entrance to the Meditation Garden.

An Executive Director, Daisy Howard, was recently hired. She is the first full-time staff member.

The Monk Garden continues to grow. There are many activities throughout the year. In the winter there is Moonlight snowshoeing. Spring brings a plant sale. There are vegetable gardens. Check out the website at www.rwmonkgardens.org to see photos & activities at the garden.

We are proud of the progress and thank all who contributed to the wildflower area of the Robert W. Monk Gardens in Wausau.



During the February Executive Board meeting, WGCF officers, District Directors & committee chairs were asked to use “post-it” notes to respond about their vision for WGCF. This “wordie” was created by Gerianne Holzmann from the responses.

Horticulture

Carol Larson

Spring in Wisconsin brings many images to mind: pussy willows, asparagus, rhubarb, morels, but in many areas the first sign of spring is the tapping of sugar maple trees. The excitement builds as the temperatures get above freezing during the day and drop below freezing at night, thus triggering the flow of sap up into the trees. Taps are placed, sap collected and the cooking process begins. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup most years, although that may vary year by year. Wisconsin is 4th in the nation for maple syrup production; color, clarity and flavor determine the grade. All maple syrup comes from North America and Native Americans were the first to harvest this unique product. The sugar maple sap has the highest sugar content, although some other maple trees can be tapped too. In our family, we enjoy the spring rite on a small scale, using trees close to our cooking area to limit carrying heavy buckets of sap too far or on snowshoes! Cooking is done outside because of the amount of moisture to be evaporated in the process of turning sap into syrup. When it gets close to the finished product, the finishing is done indoors and canned to preserve it for future use. Our production is limited to our own use as a family and has become a tradition for our grandchildren too.

In our northern Wisconsin area, our Four Corner's elementary school is fortunate to have a wooded area that includes a stand of sugar maples. Twenty-five years ago a teacher thought this would be a great opportunity for children to experience nature and to actually participate in learning about making maple syrup. The fifth graders are involved in the process from beginning to end, which culminates with dollar-sized pancakes and syrup for the entire school! Each class has a designated area of forest that is theirs for the year. They have many adventures in learning and observing nature up close and personal throughout the year with creative curriculum. This year a shelter with a roof was built so cooking and the evaporation process could be done in any weather. Volunteers are always welcome to help!



**Celebrating 50 Years
of Gardening for Good!**



**Botany Belles & Beaus
Garden Club**

Established 1968

Serving central St. Croix County

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 26 WGCF Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn,
Rothschild, WI
- May 1-3 WGCF Flower Show School, Course 1
Sheboygan, WI
- May 21-24 NGC Annual Convention, Philadelphia
- June 14 WGCF Executive Board Meeting
- Sept. 21-22 WGCF Environmental School,
Middleton, WI
- Sept 26-28 NGC Fall Board Meeting, Orlando, FL
- October 12 Dedication of WGCF President's Project
and Blue Star Memorial, Houlton, WI
- October 12-13 WGCF Gathering for Gardeners,
Stillwater, MN
- October 22-23 Central Region Convention,
Frankenmuth, MI
- Fall Executive Committee Meeting, TBD

2020

- May, 2020 NGC National Convention, Milwaukee

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

should be sent to Membership Secretary
Maureen Wild Gordon
742 Oak Ridge Rd.
Oregon, WI 53575
608-287-6501
wildgordon@prontomail.com

Memorial Scholarship

Fund Donations

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



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

CLUB NAME _____ DISTRICT _____

DONOR NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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

DONATION TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

DONATIONS APPLIED TO PRINCIPAL

INDIVIDUAL/CLUB DONATION

WISCONSIN LIFE MEMBERSHIP

IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Town & Country Garden Club of Milwaukee
presents

An NGC Small-Standard Flower Show
12 to 4 PM – Saturday, June 9, 2018
Atkinson – Milwaukee Public Library
1960 W. Atkinson Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53209

Entries open to all WGCF members.
For a show schedule, email towncountrygardenclub50@gmail.com.

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



709 Brookstone Crest
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

wisconsinclub.org

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Coming in the Summer 2018: Awards Winners, Central Region Convention & Meeting, Design, Judges' Council, Memorials & Tributes, Smokey the Bear & Woodsy Owl, Treasurer's Annual Financial Report, Tri-Council, Yearbooks.

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

Looking out my window I find that there are still mounds of snow that are evident in the back yard, and the weather forecast is that we may get more snow in the next few days. I thought I was working on the Spring Issue of this magazine but I guess that doesn't protect us from the snow!! I'm finding that this "spring" is a challenge to my wanting to focus on positivity. I need to remember a recent conversation with a person who commented that we will appreciate the warm days so much more when they finally arrive.

As I consider working on a positive attitude, I am reminded of the saying attributed to Abraham Lincoln: "We can complain because roses have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." We just need to stop sometimes and think about how our attitudes might be leading us on a dark & dreary path, and talk ourselves into turning around on that thought wave to looking at the brighter paths ahead. Think about the roses that we will see in a few months, and think about the moisture that the melting snow brings to the plants. I try to often remind myself that this snow we receive in March or April won't stay around very long, and I realize that our gardening friends in the Indianhead District contend with a "late spring" each year.

To continue with my positivity approach, I've been thinking about how gardening will be different this year. I'm recovering from knee replacement surgery in November, and will be learning new ways of gardening. Kneeling may be a challenge, but I need to focus on how much easier it will be to walk around in the gardens. Others of you will be changing the way you garden because of surgeries, illnesses, medical treatments or whatever, but we can all be so thankful to our Creator for the days that we will be able to spend in the garden.

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