



Volume 70, Issue 2
Spring 2019

Wisconsin Gardens

WGCF 92nd Annual Convention Comes to Madison!

by Gerianne Holzman, Chair



Magic will fill the air on May 16 - 18, as members of the WGCF gather at The Concourse for our 92nd Annual Convention *Magic in Madison*. Our committee is hard at work with wonderful plans for programs, food, designs and a surprise or two. We encourage WGCF members to attend this wonderful opportunity to learn more about our WGCF, hear amazing presenters and meet old friends and new.

Presenters come from near and far including local favorites **Gail Ambrosius** (yes, chocolate tasting), **Ed Glover**, **Michael Notaro**, **Jane Hawley Stevens** (yes, herbal tea tasting) and the UW Arboretum's own **David Stevens**. You won't want to miss the opportunity to meet our special guest new National Garden Club president **Gay Austin**. You will enjoy Gay's down to earth garden club style and her sweet southern personality as she tells of her plans to Plant America. **Sharon McGukin** presents a floral design program like no one else. Sharon has created designs at the White House and for the Rose Bowl parade. She is a delightful presenter and we are very lucky to have her join us. Sharon loves to design with local materials. Bring branches, leaves, flowers, etc. from your garden and let us see what this Georgia lady can do with Wisconsin spring treasures. (Please bring any flower/plant donations to The Concourse by 2:00 pm on May 16. Thanks.)

Finally, don't miss the chance of a lifetime to meet Wisconsin Public Radio's **Larry Meiller** as he receives the WGCF prestigious Bronze Award. Larry will chat about his time with WPR and *Garden Talk* as well as answer your burning questions.

If this isn't enough, you can join the WGCF Tri-Council members for a special pre-convention tour of the Capital Square with the Capital groundskeeper. You will learn about the history and lore of this Madison icon. See the winter issue of *Wisconsin Gardens* for more information.

Don't wait! Sign up today for *Magic in Madison*. Registration information is on the WGCF website (wisconsinclub.org) or for a small extra fee, you can sign up on-line at eventbrite.com - search Magic in Madison. Staying at The Concourse? Use code "WGCF Annual Meeting" for our special rate. Come join us as we feel the Magic of spring return to our capital city.

Gardening for Good

Education

Service

Friendship



WGCF is a not-for-profit educational organization founded in 1928. It is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mission: WGCF provides education, resources and opportunities for its members to promote and share the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

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A Message from our President . .

Spring has finally arrived in Western Wisconsin! The birds can be heard singing their greetings and there is much more activity at our bird feeders. As the snow continues to melt, thoughts of the summer harvests are in my head as I pour over the seed catalogues that have flooded my mailbox. What a delightful time of year!



The past two years have flown by. It's been my honor to represent WGCF as President at events on the local, state and national level. We have hosted the Central Region Convention, held two Gathering for Gardeners and hosted several schools and a flower show symposium. The districts and clubs have had multiple public events to showcase their good works.

WGCF has continued the work of making our organization both more visible and sustainable. We have lost aging clubs, but are getting many inquiries from existing, non-federated clubs as well as inquiries about how to organize a club. Many of these inquiries are from younger gardeners who are finding us via our outstanding website and public outreach.

The Grant Program is in its third year providing funds to help clubs "garden for good". This give back program was a focus of mine while I was St. Croix District Director. It is important for WGCF to help clubs with their projects.

I look forward to the completion of the 2017-19 President's Project this fall. Weather delays, beyond anyone's control, have slowed the work down. We will be planting two rain gardens and installing a Blue Star Memorial marker and a small surrounding garden. There will be a dedication of the entire Loop Trail and our project in September of this year.

Thank you to all members of WGCF for your support over the past two years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president. I urge you to continue to Plant Wisconsin and enjoy the beauty that it provides.

I will always cherish the friendships that I have developed over my 41 years as being a member of WGCF. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2019 annual convention in Madison. The committee has put together a terrific program!

Warm regards,
Peggy

ADVERTISING RATES

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

Let's Celebrate National Garden Week
by Doris Weber



National Garden Week, June 2nd thru June 8th is a great way to plan exciting events and get involved in your community! It's time to focus public attention on all activities of our Garden Clubs. How about recruiting new members with holding special programs, garden tours, bus trips, community plantings, or other garden related projects to insure the future of garden clubs?

You know you love gardening and you can show that in your community. News releases and other media are also a great way to promote public awareness about our wonderful clubs. Awareness of our accomplishments and what we stand for in our communities gets the public interested in becoming members of NGC Posters proclaiming National Garden Week are available from the NGC website, members services, or Doris Weber, email doris@johnweber.com

**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. Perhaps your Club has celebrated a special occasion or anniversary, or maybe you have a successful fundraiser that you could tell others about. Please consider writing articles about your clubs. Submit articles to: wisconsingardens@centurytel.net and to Webmaster Debby Walters: vikings76@gmail.com

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NGC Schools Sponsored in Wisconsin by WGCF Tri-Council

A SUMMARY OF THE THREE SCHOOLS AND WHAT IS CHANGING

by Vern Lowell, Tri-Council Chair

Effective February 2019, NGC has revised many requirements for the three schools that WGCF Tri-Council sponsors. Administrative duties for school chairpersons have been clarified and requirements for all three schools are now the same. Registration of a school with NGC and student registration no longer requires a fee. Students will no longer have textbook readings for each class and instructors can tailor their presentations to their current knowledge of the subject. Students no longer have a time limit in which to complete a course and can continue to take each of the 4 schools for one subject in any order. Students will no longer pay a fee to apply for consultant or master status. In May 2017, the NGC Board of Directors eliminated the \$5 fee to register all school courses, refreshers and symposia which became effective July 1, 2017. There is still a \$5 fee for exams and refreshing.

NGC describes the three schools as follows (Not an exact quote.):

The mission of the **Environmental Schools** is to teach environmental literacy and how to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth. To this end, the courses teach participants appreciation of the natural world, encourage action for sustainable development and appreciation for the interrelation of all natural things. Particular emphasis is presently placed on land conservation, water conservation and air quality.

The **Gardening School** Courses are designed to provide educational information to those especially interested in gardening, horticulture and related subjects such as soil structure, pruning techniques, plant identification, growing annuals and perennials, trees and shrubs, fruits and vegetables, lawns, pests and diseases, plant classification and related subjects of local interest.

The **Landscape Design** courses cover a wide range of subjects including the history of landscape architecture up thru the present time, a wide variety of design techniques used in home and municipal settings, garden maintenance, political aspects of promoting and creating public gardens and how to serve in the public decision-making process.

To become a certified consultant, member students must pass a test in all four courses. Consultants are responsible for maintaining a record of all courses and refreshers they have attended. WGCF School Chairs, NGC Regional Accrediting Chairs and NGC also keep records of school attendance, certifications and refreshers. NGC provides each student Consultant Certification Cards for each course completed to aid in keeping track of their progress.

NGC has done an outstanding job of updating school information on their website, www.gardenclub.org. On the first page on that site, **click on the "Schools" tab** for all the details behind this summary.

We hope these articles on NGC Schools have been helpful to you. If you have any questions or suggestions to make the schools work better for you, please let one of the Tri-Council officers or School Chairmen know.

Horticulture Report

by Carol Larson, Chair

The term horticulture brings to mind many different options for enjoyment of growing or study. Recently I read a new book that reflects and explains how ten species changed our world. The book is “Tamed” by Alice Roberts. She details how select plants and animals changed us as humans forever. Her chapters on wheat, maize, potatoes, rice and apples were especially interesting to me.

Another book from a few years back by Henry Hobhouse entitled “Seeds of Change” gave insights into how sugar, tea, cotton, potato and quinine changed the world.

Sue Minter picks as her top ten impressive plants the following: opium poppy, yam, (it helps women control their fertility) tobacco, (useful for drug and vaccine development) quinine, (set the rise of the British Empire in motion) rice, (fulfills 80% of the nutritional needs of 50% of the world’s population) rubber, (think motor industry, medicinal appliances and a form of blood serum) cotton, hemp, (in 16th century England it provided fiber for clothing) tea and tulip.

Fifty thousand plants are eaten or used medicinally in the world. We get 80% of our calories from 12 plants and 50% of those from 3 grasses; wheat, maize and rice.

Three of our important medicines come from fungus, (penicillin) willow, (aspirin) and tropical tree, (quinine).

Plants and fungus are now being studied for their environmental impact. Water purification using the plant *Moringa oleifera* gives hope without chemicals. Two million people die yearly from contaminated water, most of them under age five. The prickly pear has been used for water purification in Mexico. Heavy metal contamination is showing a positive reaction to a shrub from the Philippines. The Neem tree has shown promise as a medicine tree. In the future algae may provide rocket fuel and we know about the oil eating fungus that has an appetite for spilled oil.

Plants are such an important part of our wellbeing. Now that spring has arrived after a very long winter, I encourage you to take some time to contemplate all the benefits of nature and be thankful for the joy and possibilities it brings in many forms.



During the Environmental School held in early April, students enjoyed a tour of the UW Lakeshore Preserve. Professor Steve Ventura (yellow jacket) demonstrated a variety of tools that soil scientists would use when doing field studies and collecting samples.

News from Clubs around the State

Lake Shore Garden Club

by Doris Weber

Lake Shore Garden Club celebrated its 70th Anniversary in WGCF on February 28th, 2019 with a luncheon at Fountain Park Restaurant, Sheboygan. The theme was "Fabulous At 70" and this was carried out with flowers and decorations, favors and cupcakes during the celebration. As members arrived, they picked up nametags and found another garden club member to sit with to enjoy the luncheon.

A program with two retired nurses presenting a program called "Stepping On", followed the luncheon. This was put on by the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging. It was to help build confidence and reduce falls in and around the home or out in public. It is a 7-week workshop where one would learn exercises and strategies to help prevent one from a serious fall. The workshop is free, but a \$10 donation is appreciated. These workshops run several times a year and also in cities in Sheboygan County.

All members enjoyed the program very much! After the speakers completed their question and answer session, Lake Shore Garden President Doris Weber presented six members with service awards from the club. They were Vickie Cudworth-5 years, Dolores Raeder, Elaine Wagner, Ruth Ann VerStraate, Betty Froemming and Shirley Froemming all with 10 years of service to this club. All these members helped the club in many fields, tasks, events, leadership and support. We greatly appreciate the time and talents shared.



Happy 70th Lake Shore Garden Club!!

The Garden Clubs of Elm Grove and Mayfair Park Present



Saturday, July 20, 2019

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Tickets are \$8 in advance,
and \$10 day of the walk**

**For ticket information, contact
tourlejardin@gmail.com or
Nancy Patterson at 414-828-2583.**

TOUR LE JARDIN

The popular and eagerly awaited Tour le Jardin garden walk, jointly sponsored by the Elm Grove Garden Club and Mayfair Park Club has been scheduled for Saturday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is a rain or shine event, featuring special gardens in the Elm Grove-Wauwatosa area.

Tickets sales will be at the Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, as well as through various merchants and club members. A bevy of garden oriented vendors will be located on the Sunset grounds throughout the day.

As per popular demand, Plein Air artists will again engage in their craft at the gardens. They are urged to have some of their favorite works on hand for purchase by Walk attendees. Homeowners and/or garden club members will be available to discuss various plantings and garden designs.

Where is the WGCF Handbook?

by Gerianne Holzman, Organizational Studies Chair

Do you still have a small white binder filled with tons of information related to the WGCF? It is probably well worn, contains half-size sheets of paper and may be dated 2014 or even earlier. It may even say *Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Handbook*. If you DO have this wonderful piece of history, you may do the following: take out the pages and put them in your recycle bin, reuse the binder for something else (could be a fun planter or garden ornament), keep as a historical document or toss out everything. What you CANNOT do is use this old handbook as your source of information on everything WGCF!

The Bylaws and Standing Rules (including rules of operation, convention procedures and awards procedures) have all been (or will soon be) updated and put in the members' only section of the WGCF website: wisconsin-gardenclub.org. All of the information is at the fingertips of your keyboard and are (or soon will be) available in searchable pdf format. You may print out one page or the entire document or store electronically for future reference. Please do check back, at least yearly, for any updates. Standing rules (including convention and awards) may be changed at any quarterly executive committee meeting with a majority vote of those present. Bylaws may only be changed at the annual business meeting with a vote of all members present provided the proposed changes were published in the winter issue of *Wisconsin Gardens*.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on where to look for information;
geriannewgcf@gmail.com

Definitions:

WGCF Executive Committee: the elected and appointed officers and district directors

WGCF Executive Board: the executive committee members and members of the finance, organizational study, strategic planning and scholarship investment committees, editorial staff of *Wisconsin Gardens*, chairman of the advisory committee, financial review chairman and the chairmen of all standing and special committees.

Flower Show Symposium

September 13-14, 2019

Bloomington, MN

The Federated Garden Clubs of MN, Inc. will host a Flower Show Symposium on September 13-14 at St. Mark's United Church of Christ, in Bloomington, MN.

Instructors for the course will be Judy Newman and Claudia Chopp. Judy Newman's topics will be: *World of Basil & The Daunted Dahlia*, with an Allied Topic of *Botanical Arts Horticulture*. Claudia Chopp will present *Cascade and Abstract Designs*, with an Allied Topic of *Design Tips and Tricks*.

The Registration form and additional information are available on the WGCF website. Registrations are due by August 1, 2019.

Operation Wildflower

by Diane Powelka, Chair

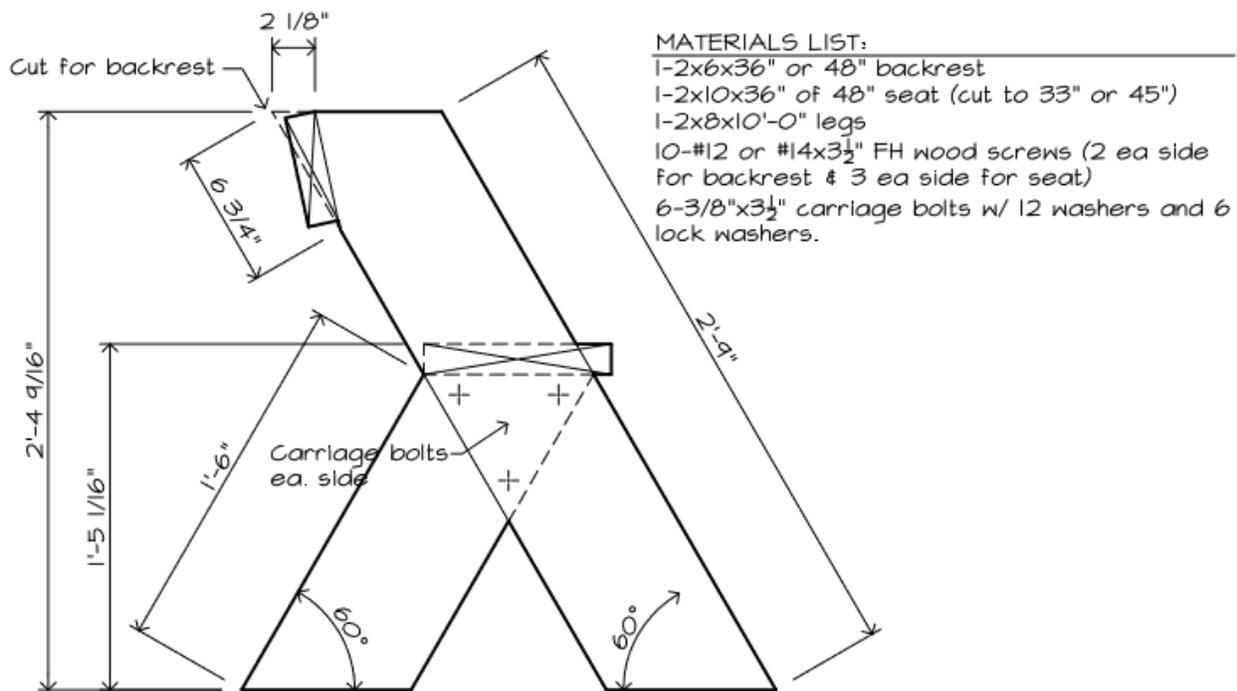
Winter and spring are great times to work on building an Aldo Leopold bench. This bench is a great place to sit and a wonderful addition for your prairie or any landscape. Depending on your landscape and space, you might want more than one.

My husband Joe has taken the design and changed a few things. It is simple to build if you are into making things out of wood. In the past the Sun Prairie Garden Club made extra to use them for a fundraiser.

When you are out walking in your yards, look around to see which branches will need to be trimmed in the next few weeks. This tour gives you a better view of what to add, like some native shrubs.

I can already hear the buzz of saws, as you're building a new bench for your yard.

Enjoy your landscape.



ALDO LEOPOLD BENCH

Editor's Note: Additional plans, instructions and tutorials for building an Aldo Leopold Bench can also be found by searching on the internet or checking on Pinterest.

Life Memberships

by Gerianne Holzman, Chair

Garden club members have an excellent opportunity to honor himself/herself or another member while showing pride in our organization and the good work that we do. Purchasing a Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF), Central Region Garden Clubs (CR) or National Garden Clubs (NGC) life membership demonstrates dedication to organizations while supporting special causes. The life membership opportunities are described below. Please note that all life memberships are honorary designations and members continue to pay their normal membership dues.

- WGCF Life Membership: one-time fee of \$50 supports WGCF scholarships or Ruth West Continuing Education Fund*
- Central Region Life Membership: one-time fee of \$50 supports CR scholarships and website
- National Garden Clubs Life Membership: one-time fee of \$200 supports NGC scholarships and Permanent Home and Endowment Fund, NGC life members receive life-time subscription to *The National Gardener*

It is easy to apply for life memberships, simply go to the WGCF website (wisconsin-gardenclub.org), click on forms and scroll to the specific membership of interest. All forms are fillable PDFs or can be printed and completed by hand. All directions for needed information and where to send are included on the forms. If someone is already a life member, you can still honor her/him with a tribute donation. We currently over 500 WGCF life members. Please consider honoring yourself or someone else with a life membership as we *Garden for Good – Education!*

*As of October 2018, members may designate the fund for their donations to WGCF Life Memberships, Memorials or Tributes. You may still donate to the WGCF Scholarship fund held by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. Alternatively, you may donate to the internal Ruth West Continuing Education Fund supporting educational opportunities for members within the WGCF. The forms for Life Memberships, Memorials and Tributes are on the WGCF website and contain these new alternatives.



Garden Club members of the Madison District created floral designs for Wisconsin's Garden Expo, held in February.



What Happened to Our Scholarship Money?

by Peggy Grubbs

What happened to our scholarship money and why isn't it shown on our balance sheet as an asset? These are two questions that I have heard for years. No one was able to address the issue in its entirety, so upon becoming president, I began looking into the files.

It was evident that managing the scholarship funds, held in CDs was a challenge and a tremendous amount of work for the members and officers of WGCF. Our returns on the CDs which funded the scholarships were modest.

In July of 2000, WGCF deposited the assets of our organization in the Community Foundation for the Fox River Valley. WGCF retained the ability to terminate the agreement and reclaim the funds. The initial donation was thoughtful and prudent.

This was done because they knew professional managers would properly invest the money we raised, and assist us in the best way to distribute the funds to those in need. The mission of the Community Foundation was clear, they would invest the money, and distribute a percentage of gains as scholarships. Scholarship applications were handled by the Foundation and WGCF picked the winners based on recommendations from the WGCF Scholarship Selection Committee.

This was a win-win for our Federation. Our funds have grown over the years and the work involved by us has been minimal.

Somewhere along the way, documents were presented to our leadership by the Community Foundation for the Fox River Valley Region. These documents changed the ownership of the money and it was in fact gifted to the Community Foundation. As the money no longer belonged to WGCF it was dropped from our balance sheet as an asset

The Scholarship Investment Committee and I met last June in Appleton to discuss these issues and to get clarification about ownership and administration. We stated our displeasure at the change in ownership, but there is little that can be done to undo the "gift".

Why does any of this matter? Scholarships with the name Wisconsin Garden Club Federation in the title are still being given. The funds are continuing to grow. Students are still benefiting. WGCF no longer gives scholarships, as we don't own the money. People taking a hard look at our organization do not have a clear cut picture of what we do and have done over the years. We appear to be a very minor organization as our assets are limited. We need to rebuild our assets.

As of December 31, 2018, the scholarship funds that we donated to the Community Fund of the Fox River Valley held over \$319,907.67 in assets.

As a result of our meeting with the Community Foundation, the WGCF Executive Committee established the Ruth West Continuing Education Fund to provide for internal education for our members. Look for an article about this fund in the summer issue of *Wisconsin Gardens*. You now have a choice where your donations go.

We encourage monies donated to either the Memorial Fund or Life Membership Fund be donated to the Ruth West Continuing Education Fund rather than to the Community Fund. The donation form has been reworked to allow for these options. Donation forms are on the WGCF website, listed under FORMS.

Help Keep Gardeners Safe this Season

by Melinda Myers

Spring has arrived; at least according to the calendar. And that means lots of gardening and landscape projects. After a long winter, we'll all be anxious to plant trees, shrubs and flowers, installing new garden beds and maybe even adding decks, patios and arbors to the landscape. This means lots of digging. Make sure you contact Diggers Hotline three business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. And join me in spreading the word about this free service to help keep everyone safer this growing season.

April is National Safe Digging month, a perfect reason to tell others about the importance of enlisting the free services of Diggers Hotline. Let them know it's as simple as calling 811 or filing online at DiggersHotline.com. Diggers will contact all the appropriate companies who will mark the location of their underground utilities in the designated work area. This eliminates the danger and inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable or other utilities while creating a beautiful landscape.

This may be old news for you, but a step often overlooked by the gardeners you advise. In a survey conducted by Common Ground Alliance (CGA) they found that four out of ten homeowners are planning projects involving digging. Forty five percent of those will not contact their local utility notification center. Two thirds of those surveyed believe they won't be the ones to hit an underground utility despite the fact that somewhere in the country someone damages an underground utility every three minutes.

As you can see, we have lots of opportunity to make a difference. So, as you share your gardening knowledge and passion with others, remind them to call 811 or file online at DiggersHotline.com at least three business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. You'll help us all have a safer and more productive growing season.

Melinda Myers is the author of numerous books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers' web site, www.MelindaMyers.com, features gardening videos, podcasts, monthly checklists and more.



Floral designs created by Madison District Garden Club members for Garden Expo

IN MEMORIAM

Elaine Seeliger

(1929-2019)



We were saddened to learn of the death of Elaine Seeliger, 89, in early March 2019. Since 1971, Elaine worked as a nurse for Waupun Memorial Hospital and Riverdale Manor in Markesan. She later worked as a home healthcare nurse with Agnesian and volunteered for Agnesian Hospice until the age of 87. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Markesan and active with the Ladies Aid.

Elaine loved to garden and was a member of both the Markesan Gardenettes and the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, where she held several offices and was an accredited floral judge. Additionally, Elaine was a member of the Markesan Kiwanis Club, served as a state officer for Kiwanis, and was passionate about volunteering.

Elaine is survived by three children, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, many relatives and friends.

Elaine Seeliger

WGCF President 1989-91

(written by Kitty Larkin)

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

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

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

WGCF Life Members totaled 220 in 1990.

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



Spring came alive at the annual Art in Bloom, held at the Milwaukee Art Museum, in April. Visitors have the opportunity to discover stunning art-inspired floral designs set among three floors of the Collection Galleries.



23rd Annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk

Saturday, July 11, 2019

9:00 a.m. - - 4:00 p.m. Rain or Shine

Tickets required for all visitors - - no strollers, no pets

Featuring 8 gardens

ADMISSION: \$10.00



Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Will Induct Former WGCF member

(submitted by Lucy Valitchka)

Aroline Schmitt (1904-1995) was famous for her stand on sustainable forestry practices. She feared no one and took the message of sustainable forestry to industrial foresters, a group that didn't see eye-to-eye with her. Her daughter commented, "She was up against clear-cutting. They couldn't intimidate her. She was short, but she'd stand there and tell them off."

Aroline was a pioneering woman and citizen conservationist, who worked in a man's world during the 1930s-1960s. She advanced sustainable forestry and promoted fledgling conservation organization and initiatives in Wisconsin and the nation. She helped organize and led the Citizens Natural Resources Association, which was the leading organization involved with banning DDT in Wisconsin.

Aroline was involved with the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation in many capacities, including chairing the conservation committee and directing Junior Garden Clubs.

Trained as a nurse, she got her love of forestry from her lumber baron grandfather and her mother. Her mother was a botanist, and Aroline learned a basic appreciation and love of the fields and forests from her as a child growing up in the forests of Maine.

Gifford Pinchot, the Father of Forestry, persuaded Aroline to go to work for the U.S. Forest Service as a timber cruiser during World War II. Her daughter reported, "She traveled all over the country, and Alaska, and cruised timber. She worked in the woods. It was her job to help set aside forests for the war. She was all over the country, all the time."

She continued to work for the U.S. Forest Service in various capacities after the war. Schmitt was called upon to help set up conservation departments in various states and formulate plans for forest management and control. She was involved in this professional activity even though she had no formal training or degree in forestry.

A persuasive speaker and writer, Aroline advocated for strong natural resources policy and traveled the State of Wisconsin to participate in legislative hearings and meetings. She worked closely with other Wisconsin conservation heroes, including Aldo Leopold, William Aberg, and Wilmelmina LaBudde.

Schmitt played a pivotal role in protecting the Flambeau River State Forest and its old growth hemlock-hardwood forests, and in the transfer of forested lands to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission (now DNR). She also helped protect the Menominee Tribal Forest by lobbying for the rights of the Menomonee Indians. She was a consultant for the tribe until her retirement in 1971. She helped establish several conservation facilities in Wisconsin, including the educational program Trees for Tomorrow.

In recognition of her numerous contributions to Wisconsin's conservation policies, Schmitt will be inducted in Wisconsin's Conservation Hall of Fame in Stevens Point on May 13, 2019.



Plant Identification Workshops

Offered by UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education Department

The Continuing Education Department at UW-Stevens Point is offering a workshop series of four sessions on Plant Identification during the next few months. Each workshop will get you out in the field to learn about identifying and sampling plants. The four workshops will include: woodland plants, grasses & sedges; wetland plants; and prairie plants.

Information is available on their website: www.uwsp.edu/conted/confwrkshp.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 16-18	WGCF Convention, Madison
June	WGCF Executive Board Meeting, TBD
Sept. 13-14	Flower Show Symposium, Bloomington, MN
Fall 2019	WGCF Environmental School, Middleton, WI
Fall 2019	Flower Show School, Sheboygan, WI
Fall 2019	Executive Committee Meeting, TBD

2020

April 17-18	WGCF Convention, Appleton "Puttin' on the Ritz"
May 11-16	NGC National Convention, Milwaukee
Fall 2020	Landscape Design School Hosted by St. Croix District

Coulee District Congratulates

Bangor Garden Club
65 years

Hill and Valley Garden Club
60 years



Wishing you many more years
of beautifying your communities!!

Address changes and corrections

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

Changes in email addresses should also be forwarded
to WGCF Membership Secretary.

Life Memberships, Memorials & Tributes

If you are looking for the form which usually
appears in this column, please note the
following revisions.

*As of October 2018, members may designate
the fund for their donations to WGCF Life
Memberships, Memorials or Tributes. You may
still donate to the WGCF Scholarship fund
held by the Community Foundation of the
Fox River Valley. Alternatively, you may donate
to the internal Ruth West Continuing Educa-
tion Fund supporting educational opportuni-
ties for members within the WGCF.

**Forms for Life Memberships,
Memorials and Tributes are on the
WGCF website and contain these new
alternatives.**

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



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Coming in the Summer 2019: 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 am pleased to see the greening of a lawn and garden area. After a frigid and snowy winter and a few spring snowstorms, it seems that we have waited a long time for spring. This time of year always reminds me of a ride through the countryside many years ago. I was traveling with my brother-in-law and his mother so we could go out for dinner for Mother's Day. His mother had failing eyesight and yet as we traveled through the back roads around Lodi and Sauk City, she commented "just look at all of the shades of green". Each spring as the leaves start to burst forth and the seedlings are just poking through, I think of how we are so blessed by the many shades of colors.

Our Creator certainly must have loved color when we consider all of the colors of the landscape, the colors of the rainbow, and how we see shades of all of those colors as we look around our world. Think of the birds, flowers and butterflies and how those vibrant colors are enriching our world. What a thrill it is to see the first hints of spring, to see the beautiful sunsets and sunrises. We need to remember to give thanks for this awesome creation, and do everything in our power to preserve it and to care for this earth.

Hopefully we aren't getting too busy to notice all of the colors that we can view this spring. May your spring burst forth with many shades of colors!

Carla

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