



Volume 71, Issue 2  
Spring 2020

# Wisconsin Gardens

## Pollinator Garden Signs

Written by Debby Walters

Promote your pollinator garden(s) with an attractive sign! Orders may be placed online or by using the order form on page 11. The signs will be delivered through WGCF's District Directors. Orders are considered placed when payment is received.

Clubs may combine their orders and submit them to make distribution easier. Cost per sign is \$25.00. Suitable three-foot metal posts are available from Menard's, Home Depot or Fleet Farm.

Signs are 10" x 15" and are made out of coated aluminum composite with an average lifespan of 3 - 5 years.

Signs will also be available at WGCF events.

This is a WGCF Fundraiser.



### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Arbor Day Education</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>National Garden Week</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>President's Project</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Clubs Around the State</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>Operation Wildflower</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Garlic Mustard</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Water Gardens</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>NGC Virtual Flower Show</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>11</b>

## Gardening for Good

*Education*

*Service*

*Friendship*

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



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

**WGCF 2019-2021 Officers:**

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

**First Vice President: Laura Skoff**  
**W131 N8030 Country Club Dr.**  
**Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**  
**414-614-6489**  
**lauraskoff@gmail.com**

**Second Vice President: Linda McCafferty**  
**443 Woodview Drive**  
**Sun Prairie, WI 53590**  
**608-837-2675**  
**lkmccm@gmail.com**

**Recording Secretary: Carla Von Haden**  
**1504 Academy St.**  
**Elroy, WI 53929**  
**920-901-3811**  
**carlav8@centurytel.net**

**Membership Secretary: Susan Johansen**  
**2249 122nd St.**  
**New Richmond, WI 54017**  
**715-781-6825**  
**h23j19@gmail.com**

**WGCF Treasurer: Mary Jane Hull**  
**709 Brookstone Crest**  
**Mount Horeb, WI 53572-3393**  
**608-437-2478**  
**hullmary249@gmail.com**

**Central Region Director: Jodi Meyer**

**NGC President: Gay Austin**  
**NGC Headquarters:**  
**4401 Magnolia Avenue**  
**St. Louis, MO 63110**  
**www.gardenclub.org**

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

Spring is here and as gardeners, one of our favorite times of the year. There is so much to look forward to. All of the bulbs we planted last fall are coming up. With the mild winter, I was fortunate to already have some of the bulbs purchased from the bulb sale last year already peeking out. Appreciate the work you did last fall, and get excited for spring. We get to rethink our plans for our yards. Is there anything new you want to add or redesign?



This year we need to work a little harder to get inspired, but as we stay home, there are many ways to get inspired. We can still find ways to think about new things to try in your garden and new plants that you want to try. Get your list together so when we can get out, we can go to town and make our ideas happen.

Keep in touch with your friends and fellow gardeners. Think about how you kept in touch many years ago when things were a little different. You can still talk to your neighbors across the way, use the phone, and think about ways to use the new technology. What else do we have to do? My friends and I have started a weekly zoom session where we can zoom and talk to people, and still see them and connect! I touch base with them more now than when we did not have to stay home!

Still need inspiration? When you go to the grocery store, right by the checkout there are always all kinds of magazines. Since we are not spending the money on gas these days, buy that magazine that you always wanted to dream your way through. Order that seed catalog that allows you to dream. There are so many opportunities to get inspired. We just need to be a little more creative than having the plants jump into our laps when we are touring our favorite greenhouse.

There will be plant sales going on and Garden Walks and tours that help to give us ideas to try new things. They may be a little later in the year, but we will get back to that. Individual clubs are beginning to work on plans for the upcoming year. I hope part of those plans includes planting trees. Hopefully you all have plans to plant at least one tree. Trees are important because they give us fresh air to breathe, shelter/shade from sunlight and rainfall. They help in maintaining a balanced temperature. They also help in water conservation and preventing soil erosion.

While there have been many changes in the last few months in our 'norm' for garden club, now is the time to challenge ourselves to find a way to do what we love to do. Many people are not good at journaling or documenting what is in their garden. Now is the perfect time to get that done.

I saw a story on television about documenting what this time in your life is like. This is not normal, but how you deal with this period is great for your children to read about. Leave a bit of a legacy. We have to look at this – this will not last forever and it will be difficult to work through this. But when we are done, we will be stronger. We will be able to look back and say we survived.

Think about taking advantage of the opportunities around you. Be an active and inspired member of your garden club. By opening your eyes, it is amazing the perspective that you will see.

*Lynne*

### ADVERTISING RATES

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



## National Garden Week

Doris Weber, Chair

June 7<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is National Garden Week celebrated by NGC and gardeners all over our planet! This is a great week to “Leap Into Action” to promote garden clubs with programs, tours, garden walks, plant sales, or projects that might be of interest to the public. Why not invite potential gardeners to these events along with garden club members participating?

Plants or floral designs could also be presented to libraries, town halls, schools, nursing homes, or local stores. Any way to show off your garden club work and get a bit of publicity could be planned for this special gardening week. Posters proclaiming National Garden Week are available from member services at NGC on the NGC Website. There are two versions of the National Garden Week poster. One is shown here and the other is a fillable PDF file so that the name of a local garden club can be added (space for two lines) before printing the poster.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at: [dorisweber@johnweber.com](mailto:dorisweber@johnweber.com)

## Volunteers Wanted!!

Lynne Ehnert, WGCF President

I am pleased to announce that we received two more volunteers for the WGCF Board for 2019-2020 term.

We still have a few positions that are needed:

- Finance Committee Chair
- Strategic Planning Committee – 3 year term
- Scholarship Investment Committee - 3 year term
- Flower Show Schedule Reviewer
- Gardening Schools Chair
- Garden Therapy Chair
- Memorials/Tributes Chair

There are job descriptions for each of these positions on the WGCF website. Most of the committees meet via Webex and do not require travel. Some positions just need an article written or a poster at the WGCF convention. If you are interested in helping out or know of someone that might be good at helping the organization, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Lynne Ehnert – [lehnert@wi.rr.com](mailto:lehnert@wi.rr.com).

## Remember when . . . . .

### *Lake Shore Garden Club – A Walk Through Time*

Written by Elaine Wagner, Club member since 2009

This is a synopsis of a program presented on February 27, 2020 to commemorate the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Lake Shore Garden Club, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Reference sources included personal interviews, past yearbooks and inquiries with a local historical society. It should be noted that three of the current club members are second-generation members, as their mothers were also club members.

1949 - Lake Shore Garden Club organized and federated with the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Meetings were held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. and at a member's home. Membership was 15 members. The dress was formal, a dress, hat and gloves. Fur collars adorned coats. Each member was expected to bring a flower arrangement to a meeting. They had educational programs including a program on Soil Improvement and a Field Trip to Evergreen Park, a city park to conduct a tree identification.

1952 - Membership was still 15 members. However, membership was limited to 16. Their 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Party was held at the Bismarck Penthouse, a popular local venue for social gatherings. The address of the Bismarck is 830 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Sheboygan. Today, the building houses the offices of the Sheboygan Symphony.

1959 - Membership had grown to 18, with a limit of 20. Their Anniversary Dinner was held at Riverdale, a southside Sheboygan venue. The program consisted of a travelogue on Portugal and Hawaii. The club did garden projects at the Girl Scout Home and at the Sheboygan County Hospital/Asylum.

1965 - Membership was 17, with a limit of 20. The Anniversary Banquet was held at Fountain Park Inn, a downtown Sheboygan site. The program presented by Mae Saemann included her slides of Australia and the World's Fair, held in New York. The club engaged in a Therapy Program, working with residents at the Sheboygan County Hospital/Asylum. Moreover, the club provided and maintained bird feeders at the County Hospital and at Rocky Knoll, a tuberculosis hospital at the time.

1967 - The club began the "Heritage of Trees" project which extended into the 1990's. Trees and shrubs were planted at six schools: Lyman, James Madison, Cooper, Sheridan, Pigeon River and Horace Mann. At Lyman School, the club, in a 4-year period, planted 60 trees and 63 shrubs. At Cooper School, in a 2-year period, the club planted 25 trees and 100 shrubs. Trees were also planted at the Maywood Environmental Park and included Serviceberry and a Kentucky Coffee Tree. Monies were raised through Trash n Treasure Sales, Fruit Cake Sales and bus tours to horticulture sites in Milwaukee and Chicago.

1985 - An Anniversary Luncheon was held at the Rainbows End, a popular restaurant at the time. The site in downtown Sheboygan currently houses a Subway Shop. Along with continuing, "Heritage of Trees", the club started a recycling project. Items were collected and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, taken to the Sheboygan Municipal Building.

1992 - A second-generation member Nancy Lorenz was President. Educational programs focused on State Parks not only in the local area, but also in the State of Wisconsin. One program was especially noteworthy, it focused on the Interstate. At the time, the Interstate was a controversial subject, due to consideration on usage of good farmland and the disruption of wildlife.

1997 - Marilyn Freye was our President. Her son, Jeff Rammer Freye is a current club member. The club had 21 members. The theme was "House Plants-Pride of Our Home". The club's aim was "A better life through travel and communication within our states".

2003 - Doris Weber became President. She remains our current President. A thank you to Doris for 17 years of service and enabling our garden club to grow. Membership was 21 with a goal to increase membership to 35.

Today, 2020, our club is still going strong!

- \* 47 members
- \* 5 beautification projects including The Hummingbird Garden
- \* 6 fund-raising projects including The Kiwanis Sale
- \* 12 community contributions as the Bookworm membership and Trees for Tomorrow scholarships
- \* 3 event participations and the annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk

## News from Around the State

### *Sun Prairie Garden Club*

*submitted by Diane Powelka*

Sun Prairie Garden Club has added a feature to their Club meetings by having a Bird Chatter time, in which everyone will be reporting on what they are observing the birds doing. This new program was added to our yearbook.

Here's what was reported at their first Bird Chatter

Sue Stowell: When Sue looks out her picture window she has a large tree with a bird feeder hanging from the branch. The male cardinal comes first to the feeder and apparently when it is safe, he indicates to the female that she should come to the feeder. There are four cardinal couples who come to the feeder. Sue is curious to see who is in charge when there are more types of birds at the feeder. Juncos, finches, blue jays, nuthatches, and woodpeckers also frequent the feeder. Sue says it is interesting to watch the birds predict the weather. When snow is in the forecast, the birds eat and eat. She said she tries to keep suet out for the birds but the squirrels are so greedy and do not leave much for the birds.

Joyce Smail asked us if we know that owls nest in February. She said the owls are so funny hooting as part of their courtship ritual. She also told us that squirrels nest in January.

Karen Bailey told us that there is a new snowy owl at Goose Pond Sanctuary which has been named Columbia. Volunteers caught the owl and she has been outfitted with a transmitter for research purposes and released back into the wild.

Diane Powelka said that sometimes it gets real quiet around the bird feeder and then a hawk shows up and all the birds had disappeared before the arrival.

## *May - the Perfect Time to Pull Garlic Mustard*

*by Debby Walters*

If you love spring ephemerals, such as bloodroot, hepatica, trilliums, this appreciation of the spring woods should encourage you to get out and battle garlic mustard. Garlic mustard if uncontrolled will take over the woods and eliminate native wildflowers and other woodland plants. Garlic mustard spreads very rapidly and is hard to eradicate once it is established in an area. The plant is a biennial which flowers in its second year. Each plant produces hundreds of seeds which are spread by humans, wildlife, water and other means. The seeds remain viable for 5 to 8 years. The plant also puts out a chemical that impedes the growth of other plants. It can become dense enough that it also prevents tree seedlings from growing. Usually an infestation begins at the edge of a woods, along a roadway or along a waterway.



The best time to pull garlic mustard is prior to its flowering. If it isn't flowering, it can just be pulled and dropped in place to decompose. Once it has flowered, it needs to be bagged and burned so the flowers cannot mature and produce seeds.

Of course, garlic mustard was originally introduced to the U.S. for medicinal purposes and food in the 1800s. A quick Internet search will bring up many suggested recipes. A common one is a Garlic Mustard Pesto: crush garlic, slice up garlic mustard and also garlic chives if available, puree both in food processor with olive oil and walnuts (or pine nuts); add parmesan cheese. Start the water for pasta!

## ***NGC Virtual Flower Show***

Gay Austin, President, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

June 1-15, 2020: Flower Show entries accepted

June 16-30, 2020: Subdivision and Judging

July 2020: Winners posted on website and social media

Originally the Perfect Vision 2020 Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show was created for our members to exhibit at NGC's Annual Convention in Milwaukee in May 2020. Due to the cancellation of this annual event, this well-planned flower show also had to be cancelled. Rather than just walk away entirely from this event, we decided to attempt a Virtual Flower Show. With some modifications of the original flower show schedule, this "Virtual Flower Show" was created. We also realize across our organization Flower Shows have been canceled or postponed, with members being confined to their homes. We want to keep stimulating interests in Flower Shows and allow members the opportunity to show off their gardening and design skills. We understand this is a first attempt, and the Handbook for Flower Shows does not address having a virtual flower show, as "in person" judging is still the preferred method. This Flower Show Schedule and subsequent judging falls under the standards and requirements of the HB and NGC. We realize this still is NOT an NGC Flower Show, and thus no exhibiting and judging credits are offered for this show. Have fun and we look forward to your entries.

Information about this Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show is on the NGC website.

## **Meet our Arbor Day Education Chair**

Karen Merlau, Chair

As your new Arbor Day Education Chairperson, I have had a long interest in trees, going back to childhood. I can truthfully say that I have planted thousands of trees on our property over the years. Although these days, it's more like a couple dozen a year. But I may have to re-think that number given the role that trees are expected to play in curbing climate change.

An article appeared in the media last summer that caught my eye, "More Trees Best Way to Fix Climate, Study Says." It detailed a study published in *Science* magazine that suggests that planting a trillion plus trees could be the most effective way to combat climate change. It would take an area roughly the size of the United States to plant that many trees. They feel that spread across the world in areas that support trees, there is enough room to accomplish this without disruption to existing cities and farmland.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. On average, a single mature tree can absorb 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and generate enough oxygen for a person to breathe for 2 years.

Planting a trillion trees would be an enormous effort. The Arbor Day Foundation has initiated a project to plant 100 million new trees by 2022 and inspire 5 million new tree planters. This initiative is called "The Time for Trees." That may sound like a lot of trees, but it's only 0.01% of that trillion figure. Much more is going to be needed. Please consider joining the Arbor Day Foundation and supporting their efforts.

Clearly, planting of a trillion trees is not the ultimate answer to curbing our increasing levels of carbon dioxide. But it is believed to be a promising solution to help buy time while other methods of carbon reduction are investigated and implemented.

This year Arbor Day was celebrated on Friday April 24. I urge everyone to get out and plant some trees this spring to help support our state President's Project, "Leaf Out Wisconsin-Little Sprouts for Saplings". If more information is needed about this project, please contact President's Project Chairman Kerry Krokos at: (krokos.L4030@sbcglobal.net)

## THE PREZ'S PROJECT-UPDATE

### LEAF OUT WISCONSIN-LITTLE SPROUTES FOR SAPLINGS

Kerry Krokos, President's Project-Chair

Can you feel it? Spring is in the air and it's time to start making plans for our own gardens. But wait-don't forget about the President's Project. Many clubs have been making plans and waiting for spring to start. They are anxious to get those trees in the ground for Lynne's project.

As a reminder, we have lost many of our trees in Wisconsin because of damage due to disease, weather conditions and pests. Lynne's project encourages us to work with youth to plant trees and replace many of the trees we have lost within the state. This project also supports the NGC initiative, "Plant America with Trees: Each One Plant One". The goal of this initiative is planting 165,000 trees in each year of the 2019-2021 administration with the emphasis on planting native trees. There is more information about this initiative on the NGC website.

**We wanted to have some fun with this project so a contest was created. The contest details are:**

- **Contest Dates:** 6/15/19 – 5/1/2021
- **Age of Youth:** <= Age 18
- **Points Awarded:**
- **One Point for planting a tree**
- **One extra point if tree is planted in a public place**
- **One extra point if tree is planted with youth and a picture is posted on WGCF website**
- **Pictures to be posted to WGCF Website — don't forget a photo release is needed**
- **Winner: Determined by the greatest % of trees / club member based on 5/21 membership**
- **Winner to be announced at WGCF Convention**

Below are the contest results that were reported at the February WGCF Executive Meeting:

St. Croix District-Carol Howe: None

Sheboygan District-Gretchen Vest: 28 total (from 2 Lakeshore members)

Milwaukee District-Cheryl Lausten: 9 from Elmbrook Garden club

Madison District-Maureen Wild-Gordon: None

Indianhead District-Susan Wallace: None

Fox River Valley District-Sandi Smet: 1 club (Paper Valley) for 52 trees

Coulee District-Debbie Keesler: 2 clubs (Hill and Dale and Banger clubs) 2 trees

So many good things happen when we have healthy trees in our environment. Please keep this project in mind and let's do our part for Wisconsin and the world.

If there are any questions, please contact me.

*"Forests are the lungs of our land." - Franklin D. Roosevelt*

## **Gratitude Mixed with Disappointment**

### **2020 National Convention Cancelled**

Kitty Larkin, 2020 Convention Chair

Disappointment is a big word that has been used quite often these days in regard to the COVID 19 situation even though we realize that during this pandemic we still have a lot to be grateful for including health and safety. However, having to cancel the 2020 NGC Convention which was to be held at the Potawatomi Hotel & Casio in Milwaukee in May does come under the disappointment category. We considered all possibilities as long as we could but when the truth of the matter became evident, we cancelled and the hotel closed the following day. WGCN followed with the cancellation of the Tri-Refresher that would have been held preceding the convention.

However, the planning stages were done; we held off confirming the ordering of registration supplies, tote bags, printing of the program book, and other supplies that would have been costly and useless to us without holding this major event. The hotel, contracted speakers, vendors and donors were all very cooperative during this cancellation process. NGC Headquarters staff handled the refund policies for this process in a very timely manner.

The DNR cancelled our order for the 500 trees that were to be distributed to attendees.

Many thanks to the committee chairmen and members who gave so much time and effort in seeing to all the details of planning this event. Countless hours were given in creating a program that would make us proud to hold this event in Wisconsin which included showcasing our local talents, tours, food and hospitality.

The Petite Horticulture Specialty Show that was to be included in the convention was planned by NGC's experts in Flower Show Standards from across the United States. This was to be the first National Flower Show of its type by NGC and a show to make us all proud. This team was so creative in verbalizing the theme that the show expression was obvious to all that intended to enter it.

We are grateful to all the donors who gave so generously allowing us to contract quality speakers and programs. These donations have all been returned with in-kind donations such as seeds being given to groups with the same goals as those of the garden clubs. The NGC Sponsorship Committee did a great job in following through with the NGC Sponsors and were a big help to us in reaching our financial goal.

As the refunds reach the individuals and clubs, we are hopeful that they will use these funds to continue on with the district, state and NGC goals by planting trees and reaching out to others that have had disappointments during this COVID 19 time of our lives. In our memories we should be able to see what we were able to accomplish during this horrible time and not be overshadowed by disappointment. It was marvelous to see what could be accomplished by everyone working together toward the same goal.

Many **THANKS**,

Kitty Larkin, Chairman

Liz Murken, Vice Chairman

## **Flower Show Symposium**

October 2 & 3, 2020

Fox Valley Technical College, 1825 N. Bluemound Dr., Appleton

# Operation Wildflower

Diane Powelka, Chair

With the National Garden Club Project of “Plant America With Trees-Each One Plant-One” and the Wisconsin State Garden Club Federation Project – “Leaf Out Wisconsin—Little Sprouts for Saplings”, this might help with choosing the correct native tree for your area. Since the following list only identifies the zone the tree is hardy to, it is up to the gardener to make sure you are purchasing a tree that will survive and flourish in your yard. Do your research, purchase the right tree and then **start digging!!!**

**Get Ready, Dig!!!**

## Native Trees

Prairie Crabapple - *Pyrus ioensis* Zone 5  
Sweet Crabapple *Pyrus coronaria* Zone 5  
Hawthorn - *Crataegus species* Zone 5  
Black Cherry – *Prunus serotina*  
Pin Cherry – *Prunus pensylvanica*  
Choke Cherry – *Prunus virginiana* (Do not plant where cattle graze)  
American Mountain Ash – *Sorbus Americana*  
Wild Plum – *Prunus americana* Zone 3-5  
Eastern Serviceberry of Shadbush – *Amelanchier canadensis*  
Downy Serviceberry – *Amelanchier arborea*  
Smooth Serviceberry – *Amelanchier laevis* Zone 3-5  
Red Mulberry – *Morus rubra* Zone 5  
Beech – *Fagus grandifolia* Zone 3  
White Oak - *Quercus alba*  
Bur Oak – *Quercus macrocarpa*  
Swamp White Oak – *Quercus bicolor*  
Red Oak - *Quercus rubra*  
Black Oak – *Quercus velutina*  
Northern Pin Oak – *Quercus ellipsoidalis* Zone 4-5  
Big-Toothed Aspen – *Populus grandidentata*  
Quaking Aspen – *Populus tremuloides* Zone 1-4  
Basswood – *Tilia Americana* Zones 3-5  
Yellow Birch – *Betula allenghaniensis*  
Paper Birch – *Betula papyrifera*  
River Birch – *Betula nigra* Zones 3-4  
American Elm – *Ulmus Americana*  
Slippery Elm – *Ulmus rubra*  
Rock Elm – *Ulmus thomasi* Zone 3  
Hackberry – *Celtis occidentalis* Zone 5  
Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum*  
Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*  
Silver Maple – *Acer saccharinum* Zones 3-4  
Balsam Fir – *Abies balsamea* Zones 3  
Northern White Cedar of Arbor Vitae – *Thuja occidentalis* Zone 3  
Hemlock – *Tsuga canadensis* Zone 4  
Jack Pine – *Pinus banksiana* Zone 3-5  
White Pine – *Pinus strobus* Zones 3-5  
Red Pine – *Pinus resinosa* Zone 3-5  
White Spruce – *Picea glauca*  
Black Spruce – *Picea mariana* Zone 3

## Avoid these Trees

Siberian crabapple – *Malus baccata*  
Sargent crabapple - *Malus sargentii*

White Mulberry – *morus alba*

Do not plant by prairies or savanna

Norway Maple - *Acer platanoides*  
Amur Maple – *Acer ginnala* and all cultivars

*“The one who plants trees, knowing that he or she will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life.”*

*—Rabindranath Tagore*

# Grow Beautiful Water Gardens While Keeping Our Waterways Healthy

by Melinda Myers

We're lucky to be living in Wisconsin, a state filled with beautiful lakes and waterways. Adding water gardens and ponds to our landscape is a way to bring a bit of this natural beauty and the wildlife it attracts to our backyards. Whether planting your own or advising others, it's important to select the right plants and manage them properly to ensure you grow beautiful water gardens while also protecting our waterways and lakes.

Filling water features with native plants is the first step in growing success and keeping our waterways safe. For tips, lists and information on Wisconsin native water plants read the online brochures *What's in your Water Garden* and *Great Lakes Water Garden Plants*. Many videos are available for viewing on the website: [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com)

Always purchase plants from a local reliable source. Avoid online sources that sell restricted and invasive plants that should not be grown in our water gardens, ponds and lakes.

Avoid aggressive plants when adding a few non-natives to extend the bloom time and beauty of a water garden. These plant bullies can crowd out their neighbors and increase time spent on maintenance.

Invasive and nuisance plants tend to start growing earlier and keep growing later in the season, giving them an advantage over our native plants. These plants reproduce easily and rapidly take over a disturbed area, crowding out native plants and disrupting the natural balance needed to support our pollinators and wildlife.

Help prevent the spread and future infestations. Don't share plants with others or release them into our waterways and lakes. You may be passing along invasive species or problems for them to manage. Instead remove and destroy any aggressive, invasive and restricted plants from your water features and ponds. Seal these plants in a plastic bag, label as "Invasive, approved for disposal by WDNR," and throw them in the trash.

If you discover an invasive species in your pond or nearby waterway let the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources know so they can contain and manage the problem. And if you are interested in volunteering to help control these unwanted plants, email [DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov)

So please join me in protecting our valuable lakes and waterways. Together we can make a difference!

Melinda Myers is the author of numerous books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts the courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers' web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



A beautiful, healthy pond is free of invasive and overly aggressive plants. If you have these, put them in the trash, labeling the bag "Invasive, approved for landfill by WDNR."



Choose native plants, such as blue flag iris, or non-aggressive species that won't take over your pond or water garden.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### OCTOBER

- October 2-3 Flower Show Symposium, Appleton
- October 14 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting,  
Rothschild
- October 23-24 Environmental School, Middleton

## 2021

### FEBRUARY

February 17 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting

Spring Landscape Design School,  
St. Croix District  
(dates to be determined)

#### Editor's Note:

I regret that the issues of Wisconsin Gardens have not been getting to you on the usual timeline. With my own health issues and a "few unknowns" in this world, my schedule has been affected. Hopefully my "chemo brain" will clear more this year and even with the pandemic, I will be able to get the issues of Wisconsin Gardens to you on the expected schedule.

As always, Club officers and members are encouraged to submit articles about Club events and activities. Perhaps you would like to share ideas about what your Club has done during the quarantine time. What new methods did you try for your Club or District meetings? What plans do you have for this summer, considering that many community events are cancelled or the format has changed? What are you doing about Garden Walks and Club Trips? Please share your ideas with other WGCF members.

For example, our Hill and Dale Garden Club (the one I belong to) did not meet in April or May. We are planning an outdoor meeting in June at the Bike Trail Commons, a place where we can physically distance. Members are asked to wear a mask and bring a favorite gardening tool for their Roll Call response. Since they will have their tools at the meeting, we'll add a work session after the business meeting. With the quarantine time, we have fallen behind on weeding and tending gardens in our community. Hopefully you are also finding new ways to meet and garden.

Carla Von Haden, Editor

## ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

should be sent to Membership Secretary:

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

### POLLINATOR GARDEN SIGNS

Number of signs you wish to order \_\_\_\_\_

Total due (\$25.00 per sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Signs will be distributed through WGCF's District Directors. In order to get them to the correct people, please fill in the information below.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reminder: Orders are considered complete when payment is received.

Send your payment to Debby Walters,  
404 Walnut Dr., Woodville, WI 54028.

Thank you.

If you have questions, please email:  
contactwgcf@gmail.com.

WGCF District:

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

# Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



709 Brookstone Crest  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 2783

**Deadline for Spring Issue: June 20 — Submissions Welcome**

**Publication approximately: July 1**

**Coming in the Summer 2020: Design, Landscape Design, Annual Financial Report. Articles also requested from members, please consider writing about your garden club, activities, club projects, etc.**

Looking out my window, I find myself reflecting on many topics. One thing that has occurred for me as a result of the quarantine time or highway construction in front of my house, is that I am seeing so many more birds at my feeders. It has been several years since I have seen grosbeaks at the feeder, and this is the first year ever that I am seeing indigo buntings at the feeders. I wonder if it's a matter of less street traffic because of the construction or more time on my part to be viewing the birds. How often we hurry through our lives and miss out on the little things like the birds in our backyards, or the beauty of all that is around us.

A few months ago, I decided that I wanted to write an editorial about "planting seeds of kindness". For several years our Garden Club assisted with the school gardening classes and Health Fairs. Many of us have enjoyed seeing the former students in a local store and hearing them tell their parents, "that's my gardening teacher". During the fall and winter months, I was blessed by visits from school classes who raked my front lawn or sang Christmas carols. In the groups were students that we had gotten to know through the school gardening classes. I now think back to those times of teaching and working up the garden area, planting seeds and small plants, harvesting produce and making foods such as salsa (someday I'll tell you about the hot salsa!!). I also chuckle about the youngster who planted the plastic container along with the broccoli plant. I know that we would not be able to have that school garden this year but I hope that some of those students felt inspired by gardening in past years that they are now doing some gardening at their own homes. One day this past winter, a former gardening student stopped with a note of get well wishes and thanks. In that note, she mentioned her grandfather's cancer diagnosis as well as hoping that I was doing well. Ah yes, the seeds of kindness that were started in a school garden!! We shared our gardening knowledge and came away with so many precious memories!!

*Carla*

Editor: Carla Von Haden  
[wisconsinclub.org](mailto:wisconsinclub.org)  
1504 Academy St., Elroy 53929  
920-901-3811

Circulation: 1200

**Contributors:**

Gay Austin  
Lynne Ehnert  
Kerry Krokos  
Kitty Larkin  
Karen Merlau  
Melinda Myers  
Diane Powelka  
Carla Von Haden  
Elaine Wagner  
Debby Walters  
Doris Weber

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

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