



Volume 71, Issue 3  
Summer 2020

# Wisconsin Gardens



**FALL FLORAL FANTASY**  
**A Flower Show Symposium**  
**October 1, 2 and 3, 2020**  
**Fox Valley Technical College     Appleton, Wisconsin**

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Fall Floral Fantasy will feature Botanic Arts Thursday evening, October 1st, as its Allied Topic giving us a third Division of Flower Shows which allows Artistic Crafts, Photography and Botanic Arts Designs. This opens shows to a wider subject matter that often appeals to a diverse group of members with varying interests.

This will be in addition to the Horticulture presentation on Friday covering container-grown, Crassula Succulents, members of the Crassulaceae family and container-grown Pelargonium Flowering Geraniums, specific species of the Geraniaceae family, being taught by Sue Kirkman of Kentucky.

Design presentation Saturday by Claudia Bates of Florida will cover the specific design types of the Panel Design and Featured Plant Material Design.

Lunch will be available for purchase at the Fox Valley Technical College cafeteria, within walking distance, on Friday and will be provided for an additional prepaid \$10.00 fee on Saturday (payable to Southern Wisconsin Judges Council). Snacks for breaks will be provided by local judges councils.

Many of the previously scheduled symposia across the nation have been canceled by the Covid 19 pandemic. We typically plan a symposium every three years so that our judges may refresh every three years, as required to renew their accreditation status without going out of state.

You do not need to be a flower show judge or want to become a judge to attend the symposium but it will help to further interest in design which is used in many artistic avenues that have the same design techniques as floral design and updates on the varieties of horticulture which change constantly.

This will also be a good time to renew friendships that may have suffered through the COVID 19 pandemic these past months. We need to make up for the lack of socialization and gatherings that we have missed and become family once again. We can nurture our minds and our hearts at the same time.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Fall Floral Fantasy.

Registration form and schedule are on pages 15-16 of this issue, and on the WGCF Website.

Kitty Larkin, WWGCF Symposium Chairman  
Liz Murken, Local Chairman

*Gardening for Good*

*Education*

*Service*

*Friendship*



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

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

**WGCF 2019-2021 Officers:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Central Region Director: Jodi Meyer**

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

## President's Message

Much of my time in the last couple of months for WGCF unfortunately has been spent on the decisions on events due to the pandemic. These are decisions that are not taken lightly. While not everyone agrees with the decisions made, we all are ready to get on with our lives and get back out into the world. I have spent a lot of time making decisions I hoped never to make, and hoping to come up with solutions for planning for the future. The following were cancelled this year: NGC Convention, WGCF Convention, NGC Fall Board Meeting, and now CR Meeting is taking a vote to cancel.



While it might be time for a quieter time in our lives, spending more time at home, we now have more time to spend in our gardens and contemplating a different way of doing things. We have been challenged with our garden club meetings, had more conference calls, virtual flower shows, and maybe even learned a bit more on our computers. Others have learned to work from home. I assisted with the process of judging an NGC Virtual Flower Show that was held instead of the Flower Show that was supposed to be held at the 2020 Convention. I also helped to plant trees at Forest Home Cemetery and we were able to social distance! It can be done!

I received notification regarding the NGC Awards. The cancellation of the 91st convention of National Garden Clubs, Inc. in Milwaukee eliminated the formal presentation of national awards to each state president and International Affiliates. The awards committee completed the judging of all applications and will mail all award certificates and ribbons to state presidents. These packets will include a printed awards booklet. This award winners listing is for entries that reflect projects and activities that occurred in 2019. A project may be new or continued. Yearbooks were judged on the state and regional levels. Each region selected First Place winners in each category to be awarded NGC Certificates of Commendation.

**#CB-2 Community Beautification OVERALL WINNER: Sunset Garden Club: CB-2 (Bi) (Wisconsin)** Club members and friends created a welcoming, beautifying, and pollinator-attracting garden at the newly built Midtown Police Precinct. A blue, white and yellow color scheme was chosen to remind visitors of the police officers in blue and to attract bumble bees. Sunset Garden Club received a Plant America grant and donations from neighborhood associations and individuals to fund the project. The garden has been registered as a Million Pollinator Garden, and members hope to involve local schools in the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade project at this garden.

**#G-2 Edible Gardening - Mary Lenart-Kirchoff** of Sunset Garden Club won Class A for Edible Gardening.

**#L-5 Landscape Design OVERALL WINNERS (tie): Sunset Garden Club: L-5 (Ai) (Wisconsin)** Members created a pollinator garden at the Midtown Police Station. Plants of white, yellow and blue were used to attract bumble bees. They also made a handout for schools to create a Bumble Bee Brigade.

*(continued on page 3)*

### ADVERTISING RATES

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

## Congratulations to 2020 WGCF Award Winners!!



**LYDIA SHAFER AWARD**  
*presented to  
Gretchen Vest  
of Sheboygan District  
by WGCF President Lynne Ehnert*



**GARDEN CLUB OF THE  
YEAR AWARD**  
*Lake Shore Garden Club of  
Sheboygan District  
WGCF President Lynne Ehnert with  
Club President Doris Weber*



WGCF Officers and members gathered for a "2020 Style Awards Presentation": (left to right) WGCF Parliamentarian Kitty Larkin, WGCF First Vice President Laura Skoff, Doris Weber of Lake Shore Garden Club; WGCF President Lynne Ehnert; Gretchen Vest and Jim Vest.

Other Award Winners are being notified and will be announced in the Fall Issue of Wisconsin Gardens.

*(President's Message continued)*

#NPW-2 Civic Project with Native Plants **OVERALL WINNER: Lake Wissota Garden Club: NPW-2 (Aii) (Wisconsin)** A 760 square foot curved bed landscape design using native plants was the objective of the Lake Wissota Garden Club. This club used soil solarization to clear the area of materials before the planting process began. They then used newspaper and mulch to give a base for the bed, which was then planted with 234 native plants. Teams took turns watering the new plants. Plants were treated with deer repellent and retreated after rains. Members committed to weed and monitor for three hours every other Wednesday from spring until killing frost.

Award FS-1A Club Standard Flower Show **Less than 21 Members - Floral Designers of Wisconsin** won a Flower Show Achievement Award for the show at Wisconsin State Fair 'Sowing Creatively' 8/8/2019 to 8/11/2019.

*Lynne*

Additional information and photos about the NGC Awards are on pages 4-8.

# Sunset Garden Club Receives NGC Awards for a Pollinator Attracting Garden

by Shawnelle Kapper

Sunset Garden Club, in Madison, has received two NGC Awards: Overall Winner of the Community Beautification Award and the Overall Winner of the Landscape Design Award. The awards grew out of a collaborative project between Sunset Garden Club and the Midtown Precinct Police Station Captain. Working together, we created a pollinator garden at the new police station to honor the men and women who protect us daily. Two members, a NGC landscape and garden consultant and a master gardener evaluated and designed the garden. The garden's blue, yellow and white theme provides a palette that attracts bees and other pollinators while offering continuous blooms throughout the season.

Project funding came from several sources. An awarded *Plant America* grant funded the majority of the plants. Local residents and two neighborhood associations generously donated. Sunset Garden Club and individual members also contributed to make the garden a reality.

In June 2019, five garden club members, one spouse, and four police precinct staff planted and mulched the garden. Sixteen members volunteered to maintain the garden during the season and one member coordinated a dedication marker. The project is registered as a *Million Pollinator Garden*. The garden's prominent location in the neighborhood has garnered much interest and admiration!

The garden was also designed to educate on the importance of pollinators. Our club president designed an educational handout to draw attention to the Wisconsin DNR's *Bumble Bee Brigade* program. Four local schools can participate in the program by visiting the precinct garden or any local garden.

The NGC awards were a welcome surprise! Thanks to a garden club member with award application experience and the club president for taking the time to apply for the awards. Both come with a certificate and monetary award.



A dedication marker (below left) and WGCF Pollinator Garden sign (right) add to the Pollinator Attracting Gardens which were planted by members of the Sunset Garden Club (below right).



## Sunset Garden Club Member Receives NGC Edible Garden Award

by Mary Lenart-Kirchoff

Mary Lenart-Kirchoff, a member of the Sunset Garden Club in Madison, was an award winner for NGC Edible Gardening award #G-2(A) -Garden of edibles grown by an individual. The garden submitted for the award was a 20' x 10' rental plot located within the Bock Community Garden, Middleton, Wisconsin.

Two renter objectives were to grow edibles organically with the least amount of waste, and maintain the rental plot in a manner that promoted the health and sustainability of Bock Community Garden. Each month, the Bock Community Garden Steering Committee assessed and graded the rental plots for compliance. This rental plot garden received Excellent/Model Garden ratings.

The garden also had to meet NGC judging criteria. The NGC award committee used a scale of points to judge the garden: Quality of Garden 90 points: Garden plan, selection of plants, growth and maturity of plants, successful incorporation of edibles (if applicable); successful production of edibles; overall health and attractiveness of garden; and Presentation: 5 points: neat, concise, includes all required information on the NGC Awards Application.

To satisfy the NGC judging criteria and Bock Community Garden assessment criteria, Mary Lenart-Kirchoff planted vegetable seeds and plants, edible flower seeds and plants, and herbs within the rental plot. Vegetables were harvested, weeds and plant waste were removed and composted within the plot, and plants were kept within the confines of the rental plot. To meet the objective of creating the least amount of waste, a compost bin was located within a corner of the garden plot. At the end of the growing season, annual plants were removed and composted within the plot and additional salt marsh hay was spread over the beds.

Examples of Edible Flowers: (below left to right) Zinnia, Nigella, Gomphrena, Sunflower and Marigold.



Examples of Successful Organic Vegetable Production: Cinderella Pumpkin, Sugar snap pea, Cherry tomato, Acorn squash



Other vegetables that were planted include: Cucumber, Jack Be Little pumpkin, Swiss Chard and Mache (Big seeded corn salad).

## **Lake Wissota Garden Club**

### **Road to a \$500 NGC Award Began in 2009**

**by Ginger Wierman**

I was reading my email on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 AM and saw Carla Von Haden, our *Wisconsin Gardens* editor's request for an article and some pictures to put in this Summer issue for the NGC award Lake Wissota Garden Club had won. After the NGC convention in Milwaukee was cancelled, I checked their website several times a week to see if the 2019 award winners were posted but finally gave up. I was "hoping" for that possible \$1,000 award money to help cover the \$1,100 expense for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of a replanting project in our wildflower sanctuary.

The award application was for work we'd done in 2019 on the first half of the project when we planted 275 Wisconsin natives laid out in curved bed landscape design rather than the natural plant community style of our other beds. However, no news ever came about winning so it was time to move on and get the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the project underway and find some way to fund it.

### **Flashback to Fall, 2009**

Lake Wissota Garden Club based in Chippewa Falls, St. Croix District, has been working on this wildflower garden located in Irvine Park since 2010. We started on this project in late Fall, 2009 when we received \$250 from another volunteer group working on native trees in Irvine Park. We were asked to plant a wildflower garden in a ½ acre area of shady woods the tree men had partially scraped clear and sprayed with Round-up.

It's a pretty space with a creek to the south, a brook bordering on the west and a small waterfall fed by a limestone seep wall. We divided the ½ acre into 7 beds and for the next 5-6 years we transplanted wildflowers from our gardens, purchased some plants each year and tried to keep the Creeping Charlie, garlic mustard, dock, etc. at bay.

By Summer 2016, it was obvious the "bad plants" were winning and we had little to show for all our hard work except frustrated volunteers. So in late Fall 2016 we decided if we were going to keep this project, we needed a plan.

**We're now in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of a 5-year plan** that we wrote in the winter of 2016 for improving our ½ acre, 7 bed, woodland (shade) Wisconsin native wildflower sanctuary. Our 2017-2021 plan included:

- a mission statement
- narrowing work focus to beds #1-3 and ½ of #7 (we put Mother nature in charge of other 3½ beds)
- limiting plantings to Wisconsin natives
- designing and installing self-guided tour signage
- conducting monthly public tours per a request from the Chippewa Falls Park
- arranging for a professional site plan drawing to be completed
- labeling varieties in bloom with 5 x 7 color picture plant markers listing common & botanical names & a fact about each variety

**It took all of 2017 & 2018 to renovate bed #2.** Oh, we had so much to learn! We:

- identified & inventoried all the natives
- created a spreadsheet of the 130 varieties we identified
- removed all the invasives (garlic mustard, creeping Charlie, quack grass, dock, thistle)
- removed all exotics (pretty but not Wisconsin native wildflowers)
- laid 8 layers of newspaper and 2" mulch in all the open spaces.
- retained the "natural plant community" look
- added to the existing natives to make larger, showier sweeps of each variety.

We had never asked the Irvine Park Board for money before but a grant type paper was written and delivered to the Park Director citing this year's fundraising limitations due to the Covid virus and requesting \$686.20 to purchase 235 native plants and explaining we would cover the \$413.80 balance of the project expenses. On June 9<sup>th</sup> we went before the Park Board, explained our project and Lake Wissota Garden Club was granted \$700.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> we "treated for weeds" (\$50), June 10<sup>th</sup> we covered the last 1,200 square feet of unplanted bed #3 with newspaper and 145 bags of mulch and on June 24<sup>th</sup> we planted 279 natives in the S ½ of bed #3. Another 212 natives were put in on our July 8<sup>th</sup> workday.

We were able to get by with only 116 plants purchased in late April which we divided into 235 plants, then we saved 8 densely growing beds of natives in the space, dug and potted 125 singleton natives out of the project space and solicited donations of natives from members' gardens to get our 491 plants. Deer spray will cost \$100 for these new plants.

**Additional funding sources.....**(Thank You Past President Peggy Grubbs for showing us the way)

In 2018 we received a \$250 WGCF grant to cover the cost of the self-guided tour signage. In 2019 we received a \$250 Thrivent grant and a \$1,088 Community Foundation of Chippewa County grant and replanted the north half of bed #3. **The objectives we cited in the NGC Award application...**Our grant application story of the replanting of the north half of bed #3 included these facts: we used non-chemical soil-solarization to kill the weeds, were successful in grant applications to cover the costs, included youth and members of the local Lake Association as helpers, were advised on plantings by a landscape architect, used eco-friendly mulching products and had 70% member participation planting day & educated the public with project signage.

#### **Lessons to learn....**

- start with a plan (we might have saved a few years of “shoulda”, “coulda”, “woulda”)
- consider all funding sources (don’t be afraid to ask)
- be willing to do the work to apply for grants & awards (I had to learn how to use Canva to insert captions and pictures for the NGC award)
- be sure your volunteers are appreciated (I try to follow each Wed. workday with email & pictures of what got accomplished)
- be sure your volunteers are learning something while they work (We take a short flower walk and some of our committee can recognize all the flowers by bloom and are trying to learn the leaves because it’s hard to weed in spring when everything is green if you can’t identify the natives by leaf.)
- pray for rain (dipping water from the creek into those yellow kitty litter buckets to water hundreds of plants is good exercise but gets old pretty quickly)

**Spring 2020 and no extra money...**So we arrived at Spring, 2020. It was time for the south half of bed #3 to get replanted but we could not afford to spend our entire year’s sanctuary budget of \$1,100 on this 2020 project.

Daughter Sarah, a computer whiz, introduced me to CANVA, an app that allowed me to re-size and drop my project pictures onto pages 2 & 3 of the NGC Award application and include captions underneath each picture. I felt like the 2 Steves, you know, Mr.’s Jobs & Wozniak in their garage geeking out on the first computer.

Don’t ask me to do that “move the pictures and insert captions” again anytime soon. I’ll have to learn it all over but for the moment, it worked and I completed the NGC award and emailed it to Doris Weber. The requirement to send the copy to your awards chair is a good thing as Doris caught an omission on my application.

**Why didn’t we just kill it all with Round-up and start fresh?..** because those first several years, many of the wildflowers we brought from our own gardens were planted in bed #2 and there were too many nice plants to waste like that.

**Why did it take so long?** We hold a 3 hour workday every other Wednesday morning. We had so much to learn about natives. Now many of us have developed the tools & knowledge to identify plants and better utilize our field guides both entitled *Wildflowers of Wisconsin*. The easier to use guide by Stan Tekiela, organizes the flowers by color. The more “academic” book is by two Madison professors Black & Judewicz and is organized by the number of petal parts of the flower. I’m in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of my 5-year plan to learn how to use that book. Both are available on eBay for about 1/3 off retail.

Our 2019 plan, for which we won the NGC award, was the replanting of the north side of bed #3. Our 2020 project is the south half of bed #3 where we installed the natives on June 24 and July 8, 2020. Before treatment to kill the unwanted growth, we were able to cover and save 8 densely growing native patches of Mayapple, Feverfew, Wild phlox, Dwarf lake iris, and false & woodland sunflowers. We also dug 120+ clumps of natives including Jack-in-the-pulpit, Virginia bluebell, Bloodroot, Pearly everlasting, Great St. John’s wort, Canada anemone, Virginia waterleaf, Spiderwort, Wild geranium, Miterwort, White branching violet.

The Lake Wissota Garden Club’s Irvine Park Native Wildflower Sanctuary Committee will continue to work every other Wednesday from spring until killing frost. The NGC Award makes it possible for our Club to continue with funding for additional plantings.

Photos of various phases of the project are on page 8.

# News from Clubs around the State

## Western Acres Garden Club



Western Acres Garden Club has been meeting through conference calls and Zoon. Several members helped plant trees and companion shrubs in eye appealing locations at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee as part of the National and State Tree projects for this term (using AMES TOOLS\* no less). Ames Tools is an NGC sponsor. Forest Home Cemetery is a historic cemetery where Milwaukee's Beer Barons are buried and where historically Milwaukee's families visited and used it as a park for picnics on weekends. The monuments there are beautiful and it is a place worth visiting while one is still alive.



## Lake Wissota Garden Club



*These photos show the progression of the project of planting Wisconsin natives, from the "before" of the project (above left) to the uncovering of the soil solarization (above center), and marking the new areas (above right). Planting day (below left) and the finished planting area (below right) are wonderful accomplishments!*



## Green Thumb Garden Club

The Green Thumb Garden Club is actively involved with the Veteran's Thrive Garden in Fond du Lac. This is a community garden started with a grant from the Food Wise program with help from the UW Extension, the Master Gardeners, and the many volunteer hands of the Veteran community and the Green Thumb Garden Club members. This garden is managed by Salute the Troops, a local Veteran non-profit, and consists of raised planter beds laid out and painted to represent the American Flag with paths in between each bed allowing wheelchair access. The flower box planters and flag poles are the product of an Eagle Scout Leadership Project.

The purpose of the garden is to provide veterans and the community a place to grow vegetables and flowers. For the veterans in particular, it's a chance to learn and to connect with others, to enjoy the healing and calming effects of grounding with the earth, and to provide food for themselves. It is also a way for the veteran to give back to the community that has taken care of them by donating excess produce to the Fond du Lac Food Pantry. Thrive Church owns the vacant lot and rents the space to the garden for \$1 per year. The garden is central in our city, just two short blocks off of Main Street, so it is easily accessible by foot, car, or city bus route. This summer's harvests will include: spinach, lettuce, sugar snap peas, shelling peas, radishes, dill, cilantro, carrots, green beans, tomatoes, potatoes, leeks, 3 types of onions, garlic, beets, eggplant, kohlrabi, yellow squash, zucchini, bell peppers, Serrano peppers, jalapeno peppers, cucumbers, sunflowers, nasturtium, zinnias, four o'clocks, and cosmos.

The garden is in its second season and the club membership helps to plant and maintain the garden, as well as work with anyone who wants to help out, learn, and partake of the garden's bounty. There is a large stone planter on the corner of the garden dedicated each year to honor a local Veteran, living or passed. This year the planter is in honor of Green Thumb Garden Club member Jim Smet, who is an Air Force Veteran and husband of long time club member and garden volunteer Sandra Smet.

Vicky Melius-Suprenand  
Salute the Troops, Vice President  
Vicky@SaluteTheTroopsWI.org  
www.SalutetheTroopsWI.org



*The Veteran's Thrive Garden in Fond du Lac is a great source of food, education and inspiration for gardeners and veterans. Green Thumb Club members help with the planting and maintaining of this community garden.*



## SMOKEY THE BEAR –WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



First Grade Anthony Vosters, Appleton



Second Grade Brooklyn Muller, Appleton



Third Grade Iley Sprangers, Appleton



Fourth Grade Lindsey Van Camp, Appleton



Fifth Grade Jylian Sprangers, Appleton

The posters shown are the winners of the 2020 Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. There were 61 posters entered this year. The winning entries are all students at St. Edward School in Appleton. Most of the entries came from the Fox River Valley District. The posters drawn by these students were sent on to Central Region in February. There were no entries in the essay or sculpture contest this year.

The prizes and certificates for the winners will be given out in the fall. Also, materials will be given to the District Directors in the fall for the 2021 contest.

Pat Ritchie, Smokey Bear and Youth Contest Chair

## YEARBOOK PLACINGS 2020

### CLUBS with 12 Members or Less

Elmbrook Garden Club, Brookfield	1st Place
Floral Designers of Wisconsin Garden Club	3rd place
Western Acres Garden Club	3rd Place
Sun Prairie Garden Club	Honorable Mention

### CLUBS with 13-17 Members

<b>Sugar River Garden Club</b>	<b>1st Place</b>
Town & Country Garden Club, Milwaukee	2nd Place
Ivy League Garden Club	Honorable Mention

### CLUBS with 18-22 Members

Wisconsin River Garden Club, Wisconsin Rapids	1st Place
Bangor Garden Club, Bangor	2nd Place
Paper Valley Garden Club, Appleton	3rd Place
Sunset Garden Club	Honorable Mention

### CLUBS with 23-29 Members

Spooner Garden Club	1st Place
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### CLUBS with 30-39 Members

Lake Wissota Garden Club, Chippewa Falls	1st Place
Oshkosh Garden Club, Oshkosh	2nd Place

### CLUBS with 40 or More Members

Green Thumb Garden Club, Fond du Lac	1st Place
Lake Shore Garden Club, Sheboygan	Honorable Mention

## Remember when . . . . .

**by Judy Newman, Historian**

### INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

The inception of International Crane Foundation (ICF) started in 1973 by its founder Dr. George Archibald as the world center for the study and propagation of endangered cranes. It has five goals: research, habitat preservation, public education, establishing a species bank of endangered cranes through captive propagation and the restocking of captive-reared cranes in the world.

By 1979, the number of captive cranes had increased beyond the space limitation of the ICF's site. A 160-acre tract of rolling moraine five miles north of Baraboo was purchased. It was necessary to restore a complex of wetlands, prairies, oak savannas and forest protective habitat. The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation learned about this project purchasing a 10-acre tract of land where Dr. Archibald tented out and danced a mating dance every day with "Tex" until finally its first egg was laid. This project was led by Gerda Debelak during the time that Doris Swartz was president of WGCF. A donation of \$4,000.00, in 1984, was the "seed" money for the Federation Fields Prairie, 'the centerpiece of the prairie restoration'.

At the Central Region meeting in 1981, attendees voted to promote the Prairie Intern Scholarship Program as the Central Region Project. The scholarships were awarded to

young men and women to care for the cranes, create and plant native habitat of native grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees. Members from the seven states in the Central Region donated \$7,682.00 which was placed in escrow for the Intern Scholarship Fund.

In the picture is Scott Freeman with former WGCF President Doris Swartz and a chick names "Dori" in honor of Doris for all of her efforts in fundraising for the ICF. A chick was also named in honor of Gerda.



In 1999, the center was closed for a major rejuvenation and scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2020. Dr. Archibald received an NGC Award for his work in establishing the foundation in 1983. He was scheduled to be one of our speakers during the 2020 NGC Convention. There was a day tour scheduled to the center which was also cancelled.

**WGCF Grants**  
**by Roger Greathead, Grants Committee Chair**

**2020 Grant Awards**

Fox Point Garden Club, Fox Point	Planting daffodil bulbs along Northlake Drive, Bayside
West Side Garden Club, Madison	Police Station, Plant & maintain garden beds
Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club, Baldwin	Baldwin Windmill Days project of distributing small trees

**Horticulture**  
**by Sue Donohue, Horticulture Chair**

When someone mentions Oaks most of us think of red, white, swamp or burr oaks. These are the oaks we see all the time so let me introduce you to the Chinkapin Oak. Known as *Quercus muehlenbergii*, this member of the white oak family grows 40-50' tall by 50-60' wide.

Chinkapin oak is the rarest of the native oaks and is found mostly in southeastern and southwestern parts of Wisconsin. And one of the beautiful things about the chinkapin is that it loves alkaline soil! A large scale native that loves soil with a pH of 6.5 and higher and tolerates clay and dry soils (does not tolerate wet soil). What more could we ask for around southern Wisconsin.

The chinkapin oak is a slow grower like most oaks. Acorns are small and are the most preferred acorn by wildlife of all kinds. Unlike most oaks, the chinkapin has a very irregular growth pattern for bumper crops of acorns. But when they are plentiful, they are plentiful. Unfortunately this oak does not bear fruit until it reaches the age of 20-30 years old.

The leaves are narrow, oblong-lanceolate (4-7" long), and shiny green and have coarse marginal teeth. Fall color is variable, but the usual shades of yellow and brown are most prevalent .

Consider this beautiful native if you are looking to add an oak to your property.

CHINKAPIN OAK.....another native beauty.



**Endangered Species**  
**by Debbie Keesler, Endangered Species Chair**

In December of 1973, under the Nixon Administration, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It was based on a concern that many of our nation's plants and animals were in danger of becoming extinct. Most of us are aware of what happened to the passenger pigeon. Many activists and environmentalists were determined not to see that happen to the Bald Eagle or the California Condor. Many species have seen their numbers grow since protective practices have been introduced.

One of these such animals has been the Florida Panther. They almost vanished in the 1970's and although their numbers have increased ten-fold since, they are still rare. It is difficult for Florida's conservation groups to maintain protected lands, when people are streaming in to the state at the rate of 900 residents per day. Florida needs more

protected land. One of the ways they do this is by buying conservation easement on private property.

The Florida Panther is a sub-species of the American puma, also known as mountain lions or cougars. Their range used to be from Canada to the Andes Mountains. They now live mostly in South Florida.

These animals were among the first to be placed on the Endangered Species list. Efforts have paid off, and they are now starting to re-populate.

Conservation efforts are required in each of our 50 states if we are to preserve and protect these animals. Much appreciation needs to go out to all of the scientists, biologists and conservationists that continue on this endeavor.

Endangered Species is celebrated on May 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

*\*\* Excerpts from Nature Conservancy*

**Gold & Blue Star Markers Price Change**  
**by Chuck & Linda McCafferty, Co-Chairs**  
 WGCF Blue Star and Gold Star Family Markers Committee

Sewah Studios, Inc., which manufactures the Blue Star and Gold Star Family Markers changed prices effective July 1. The new rates are as follows:

Memorial/Highway Markers with 7-foot Post Including Shipping	\$ 1,590.
Byway Plaques	\$ 530.
Replacement Posts	\$ 325.
Refurbish No Post Including Shipping	\$ 800.
Cap Repair/Refurbish No Post Including Round-Trip Shipping	\$ 900.

Would your Club or District like to install a Marker but the treasury just will not permit it? The following are suggestions from NGC:

- Contact your local Veteran's organizations, i.e. American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc. These organizations honor and respect these Markers and show their appreciation by helping financially. Be sure to invite them to take part in your Dedication Ceremony.
- Invite local high school students, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. to assist you with this project. It will be an educational experience that they will never forget.

If you would like additional information, please contact Chuck or Linda McCafferty at [Lkmcem@gmail.com](mailto:Lkmcem@gmail.com)

## Financial Report

### Mary Jane Hull, WGCF Treasurer

The 2019-2020 Final Treasurer's Report is available from the Treasurer (address is on page 2), and the Financial Report is also recorded on the WGCF website.

Here's a brief recap of items of significant interest:

**INCOME:**

Membership Dues for 2019-2020	\$11,017.	
FundRaising:		
Executive Committee Table Sales	\$ 161.	
Pollinator Signs	\$ 125.	(Cost: \$5972.)
Spring bulb sale	\$ 1,550.	(Cost: \$1301.)
Garden Journals	\$ 417.	
Interest, Capital Gains, Dividends	\$ 4,527.	
Wisconsin Gardens	\$ 1,150.	(Cost: \$2455. + \$720. Spring Issue charged to Equity Fund) (Revenue: \$137.50)

**EXPENSE:**

Paid to NGC/Central Region	\$ 1,204.	
Chairmen's expense	\$ 24.	
Executive Committee Expense	\$ 2,252.	
Travel, President and VP	\$ 918.	
Safe Deposit Box, Insurance, License Fee	\$ 280.	
Marketing	\$ 220.	
Donation to NGC Convention	\$ 4,000	(Refunded in July)
Awards & grants	\$ 2,741.	
Website	\$ 1,026.	

**Balance Sheet shows Total Assets as of 5/31/2020** **\$63,219.**

**NOTES:**

\$ 3,275. Advanced for Tri-Refresher \$75. returned by Friends of Boerner Park and \$2,235. was returned by Grandview Management.

All registrations for Tri-Refresher were refunded.

Convention 2020 - - All registrations were refunded.

Advancement of \$14,000 for the National Garden Club Convention was returned to Club in July.

If you have any questions, please email me. Address is on page 2 of this magazine.

Thank you.



*This sign in northern Wisconsin is in the Chequamegon National Forest near Minocqua. The sign is for a red pine plantation made possible by a contribution from WGCF. Cheryl Lausten, Milwaukee District Director, mentioned that they have a vacation home in the area and pass the sign frequently. She thought it might be of interest to show what happens with WGCF donations.*

# WISCONSIN FLOWER SHOW JUDGES

## “FALL FLORAL FANTASY”

National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Handbook for Flower Shows,  
Revised 2017 Edition

**Fox Valley Technical College**  
1825 Bluemound Road, Appleton

**OCTOBER 1-3, 2020**

**WGCF Chairman, Kitty Larkin**  
**WGCF Local Chairman, Liz Murken**

**Horticulture Instructor: Sue Kirkman**  
**Design Instructor: Claudia Bates**

**“Fall Floral Fantasy Symposium”**  
**October 1, 2 & 3, 2020**

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Full Course \$125\_\_\_\_\_ Thurs. Evening \$35\_\_\_\_\_ Friday \$65\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday\$65\_\_\_\_\_

Refresher Fee \$5.00\_\_\_\_\_ Must attend all 3 sessions to get credit.

Friday Lunch (pay at cafeteria, approx. \$10 ) Sat. Box Lunch/Send \$10\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Southern Wisconsin Judges Council

Send to: Kitty Larkin, Registrar, W161 N5711 Bette Drive,  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-5647

**Deadline: September 1, 2020**

# “Fall Floral Fantasy”

## Daily Schedule

<b>Thursday, October 1, 2020</b>	Set up Classroom Allied Topic: Botanical Arts Horticulture Division	4:00 to 6:00 PM 6:00 to 8:00 PM
<b>Friday, October 2, 2020</b>	Set up Classroom: Crassula Succulents Break Pelargonium Geraniums Lunch Practice Point Scoring Break Point Scoring for Credit	7:30 to 9:30 AM 9:30 to 10:30 AM 10:30 to 10:45 AM 10:45 to 11:45 AM 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM 12:30 to 2:30 PM 2:30 to 3:00 PM 3:00 to 4:30 PM
<b>Saturday, October 3, 2020</b>	Set up Classroom: Featured Plant Material Break Panel Design Lunch Practice Point Scoring Break Point Scoring for Credit	7:30 to 9:30 AM 9:30 to 10:30 AM 10:30 to 10:45 AM 10:45 to 11:45 AM 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM 12:30 to 2:30 PM 2:30 to 3:00 PM 3:00 to 4:30 PM

### Lodging:

Hampton Inn, Fox River Mall, 350 Fox River Drive, Appleton - \$89.00 – 920-954-9211

Holiday Inn, 1565 N. Casaloma Drive, Appleton - \$99.00 – 920-735-9504

Howard Johnson by Wyndam, 200 N. Perkins Street, Appleton 54914 920-735-2733

Quality Inn, 3623 W. College Avenue, Appleton 54914 920-731-5271

Comfort Suites, 3809 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton 54914 \$93. - 920-730-3800

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### OCTOBER

October 2-3 Flower Show Symposium, Appleton  
October 14 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting

### 2021

February 17 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting  
April 23-24 Landscape Design School,  
St. Croix District

## Address changes and corrections

should be sent to Membership Secretary:

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

## Raised Garden Beds

by Lucy Valitchka

This past Christmas our son-in-law, Steve, had my name for gift exchange. His gift to me was an I.O.U. to build two raised garden beds for me. He fulfilled that gift in March when he returned from his Georgia home to pick up his college son. He built both beds in our garage in one day! Needless to say he was tired after all that work. In spring our great neighbors used a front end loader to haul the two beds to our vegetable garden.

For Mother's Day our son, Peter, gave me a load of compost to put in the two raised beds. The next job was up to me to plant. That took a bit of research.

I checked with two friends about their raised bed techniques, plus contacted our Outagamie County Extension Horticulture Educator for her suggestions. She gave me this link. [Bulletin #2761, Gardening in Small Spaces - Cooperative Extension Publications - University of Maine Cooperative Extension](#). It was very helpful, especially showing square foot gardening techniques. I made a 12"

square grid to use as a guide for planting. When you are used to planting in rows, it takes a bit of retraining oneself for this method.

As you will see in the two photos I have some transplants & some plants from seed. Maybe in our fall *Wisconsin Gardens* I can give you an update on the results of my raised beds.

The tops of the beds are flat so I can sit on them to rest a bit. Steve was very thoughtful to add these tops.

I still have a regular row garden, but it is much smaller than in the past.

If any veteran raised bed gardeners have tips for me, I would welcome them at: [lmvalitchka@new.rr.com](mailto:lmvalitchka@new.rr.com). A good gardener is always eager to learn new ideas.

I hope your gardens are fruitful this summer.

Lucy Valitchka, Paper Valley Garden Club,  
Fox River Valley District



Melinda Myers hosts Virtual Gardening Seminars on Wednesday evenings during August, September and October. Topics include: Managing Garden Pests, Waterwise Gardening, Creating Pollinator Garden Gardens, Strategies for Adding Native Plants to Your Landscape, and many other sessions that you might enjoy. The hour-long virtual seminars are free but registration is required. You can view the information on seminars and registration at her website: [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com) The seminars look very interesting!!

# Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



709 Brookstone Crest  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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**Deadline for Fall Issue: September 1 — Submissions Welcome**  
**Publication approximately: October 1**

**Coming in the Fall 2020: Awards, Award Deadlines; Life Memberships; Scholarships, Youth Contests, President's Project. Articles also needed by Club Officers & members, please consider writing about your garden club, activities and club projects.**

Looking out my windows presents so many choices. I may look to the west and see the destruction of a highway, the curbing, sidewalk and grassy areas and the construction of a new highway, curbing and sidewalk. I can also see the dust that is stirred up by the many dump trucks or excavators and the drivers who don't follow the "road closed" signs. It's a matter of how I choose to view it.



If I look to the east, I see my own backyard, filled with grass, flowers, and an abundance of weeds (there's always weeds, right?). Again it's my choice what I see in the yard – the potential for Improvement or the result of neglect. Beyond that back yard, I see my neighbors' energetic son (4 years old). He loves to run, play ball, ride his motorized tractor, and jump on the trampoline. I especially enjoy his trampoline time because he frequently says "hey, Mom, look at me" or "hey Dad, watch this jump". It may be the same trick or jump each time but he wants them to look. As I watch him, I reflect on how our flowers and the gems of nature are shouting out to us, "hey, look at me". I recently heard two TV announcers commenting on how the pandemic has led to their slowing down and how during their daily walks, they were noticing the bark on the trees. It's all a matter of how we choose to view it.

Our Garden Club recently hosted a Garden Walk (yes, we had many public health guidelines on our signage) and our guests commented on the joy of walking through the gardens, viewing the hard work of others and marveling at the colors and textures of flowers, plants and shrubs. Through all of the concerns of the pandemic, we have been forced to "slow down" and hopefully that has led us to noticing more about what is around us. We can complain and vent until we are "blue in the face" or we can open our eyes to enjoy the gifts of nature. It's all a matter of how we choose to view it.

*Carla*

## Editor:

Carla Von Haden  
[wisconsingardens@centurytel.net](mailto:wisconsingardens@centurytel.net)  
1504 Academy St., Elroy 53929  
920-901-3811

## Circulation:

Susan Johansen  
2249 122nd St.  
New Richmond, WI 54017  
[h23j19@gmail.com](mailto:h23j19@gmail.com)

**Contributors:** Sue Donohue, Lynne Ehnert, Roger Greathead, Mary Jane Hull, Shawnelle Kapper, Debbie Keesler, Kitty Larkin, Cheryl Lausten, Mary Lenart-Kirchoff, Chuck & Linda McCafferty, Vicky Melius-Suprenand, Liz Murken, Judy Newman, Pat Ritchie, Laura Skoff, Lucy Valitchka, Carla Von Haden, Doris Weber, Ginger Wierman

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