



Wisconsin Gardens

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Winter 2017

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Website Updating

Many of the state's garden clubs are changing leadership (new presidents and officers), please take a look at the WGCF website to make sure that your district's and club's information is correct. If it is not, please use the Contact Us under About Us to inform Debby Walters of the changes that need to be made. Thanks!

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation announces the 2017 Grant Program

One of the benefits of belonging to the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF) is the ability to receive support and funding for WGCF club related projects. The WGCF Grant Committee is very pleased to announce that it is accepting applications from its member garden clubs for grants up to \$200.

Grants are not designed to support annual operating expenses but may be used either to start a new program or provide matching funds to contribute to the extension of an existing program.

Specifically, grants are designed to help local garden clubs with projects that will enhance:

- Community beautification
- Horticultural education
- Community gardening
- Environmental stewardship
- Gardening for good

The application deadline for a WGCF Grant is midnight, March 31, 2017. Awards will be announced at the annual WGCF business meeting May 5th in Wausau. Meeting attendance is not required. Projects should be completed and a feedback report sent by December 31, 2017 to roghome@frontier.com .

The grant application form and project completion form can be found at the following link on the WGCF website <http://www.wisconsin-gardenclub.org/awards/grants/>

If you have any questions about the grant program, these should be directed to Roger Greathead either by e-mail at roghome@frontier.com or by phone 608-692-1816.

We hope many WGCF clubs will find this program beneficial to their members and local community, and we look forward to supporting your project.

Sincerely,

The WGCF Grant Committee

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 2015-2017 Officers:

President: Gerianne Holzman
7437 Terrace Ave.
Middleton, WI 53562
608-345-6907
geriannewgcf@gmail.com

First Vice President: Peggy Grubbs
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New Richmond, WI 54017
715-248-3943
peggygrubbs@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Diane Olsen
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Milwaukee, WI 53218-2513
414-578-2513
gunga_din13@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary: Maureen Wild Gordon
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Oregon, WI 53575
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WGCF Treasurer: Lynnette Rakun
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Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
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Central Region Director: Judy Newman
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414-861-7134
newman9641@aol.com

NGC President: Sandra Robinson
London, Kentucky
sandyr5342@gmail.com
NGC Headquarters:
4401 Magnolia Avenue

ADVERTISING RATES

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

From Our President

It is the time of year to look back and reflect on our achievements. The WGCF has moved forward with goals that we set at the beginning of this term. We could not have gained any of these accomplishments without the hard work and dedication of YOU, our members. This is also the time of year to give thanks. Therefore, I give thanks to ALL of you for your commitment to your clubs, your communities and your WGCF.

Thanks to the members of the Scholarship Investment Committee for looking for new revenue streams for scholarships. They encouraged our members to donate on *Giving Tuesday* and provided an outlet for on-line giving to our all-important scholarship fund. Thank you to all of our members who have donated to this worthwhile cause.

Gratitude is extended to the members of our new Grants Committee. Their efficiency in getting organized is providing our member clubs with grant opportunities for work in your own communities. These \$200 grants are only available to our members – a great benefit of belonging to WGCF. Thank you to the members of the Ivy League Garden Club for their hard work and persistence in dedicating the first Gold Star Marker in the country. The dedication ceremony in Sheboygan brought tears, smiles and pride in our organization.

Thank you to all of the clubs and districts hosting community events such as teas, luncheons, flower shows and plant sales. All of these activities are wonderful opportunities to share your love of gardening, provide important funds and educate the public on garden clubs.

A very, very special thanks to the members of the Executive Committee and all of those involved with planning the October Garden Education Summit. We have had great discussions and debates while making important decisions for the good of the WGCF and our members.

Finally, thank to my WGCF family for allowing me to serve as your president. This job is not always easy but it has been an opportunity of a lifetime. It is an honor to represent you and to help make the WGCF an even stronger organization in the future.

I leave you with this quote from Dr Albert Schweitzer. *At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.*

Thank you for being the light to spark the flame in me. Who has lit your spark?

*Wishing you peace in the New Year,
Gerianne*



NOMINATIONS FOR WGCF OFFICERS: 2017-2019 TERM

Sylvia Lowell, Nominations Chair

The Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate the following members for WGCF State Officers: Peggy Grubbs, President; Lynne Ehnert, 1st Vice President; Laura Skoff, 2nd Vice President; Maureen Wild Gordon, Membership Secretary; Mary Hull, Treasurer

Peggy Grubbs, President St. Croix District

Growing up in St. Paul, Minnesota in a non-gardening family provided Peggy with few opportunities to learn about seeds and their rewards. That all changed when at age 8, she attended a Boy Scout Camp where her father was scoutmaster. Programs provided for the families at the camp included the joy of finding wild raspberries growing along the road, working in the kitchen garden and exploring the woods with the naturalists. And, so a passion for gardening began in which Peggy took every opportunity to garden from planting castor bean seeds as a child to skipping out of high school classes to plant flowers in her flower beds.

Upon meeting her husband, Will in 1970, Peggy discovered that he had the same passion for gardening. So 20 acres were purchased with the intention of creating an orchard, a home built, a family raised and a business developed. Every February, Peggy's six grandchildren meet to decide what will be planted and sold during the summer Farmers Market.

Peggy joined the Willow River Garden Club (Thumblinas), in 1978. Over the years she has become a nationally accredited flower show judge, served as club president, district director, WGCF treasurer and First Vice President.

An entrepreneur by nature, Peggy has been a teacher and principal; spending 5 years in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia teaching children from dozens of countries and cultures, instilling a love of nature and the joys of gardening. Self-employed since 1985, Peggy works with families in transition in all stages of life as a personal property appraiser, conducting estate sales, buying and selling on Ebay. She enjoys a challenge!

Peggy states, "I am proud of the work that has been done to make needed changes to WGCF over the past few years and look forward to continuing the progress and growth of the organization in the coming term".



Lynne Ehnert, 1st Vice President Milwaukee District

Lynne's adventure in Garden Club started a bit different than most. As a child, she and her sibling had their own rows to weed in the vegetable garden. As she grew older, Lynne became tired of weeding and when her mother went to flower show school, so did Lynne—in a way. Years ago Flower Show participants needed to memorize everything in all the books they read. So in eighth grade, Lynne helped her mother study to pass her flower show school test—perhaps, a subconscious introduction to Garden Club. And, of course, Lynne attended National Conventions and travels with her mother; making a lot of new friends in different states and countries, seeing programs on design and the environment. Then Lynne joins a garden club. Wham! She is recruited to be on the National Board as High School Essay Chairman (which automatically put her on the Awards Committee). Two years later, Lynne also becomes Chairman of the Youth Committee when grant money became available for Youth Pollinator Gardens. So, Lynne developed a grant application process for this money. Wham! Now, Lynne assumes responsibility for Youth Pollinator Garden Grants. In the interim, several other places needed help. Graciously, Lynne assumed the presidency of her Garden Club within 6 months of joining her local club followed by the position of Recording Secretary, and 2nd Vice Director for the Milwaukee District. Currently, Lynne serves as Milwaukee District Director, as a member of the WGCF Strategic Planning Committee and as WGCF Central Region Life Membership Chairman for the last four years. Let's not forget about Central Region, where Lynne serves as the Courtesy Resolutions Chairman. She is also having fun with floral designs and being an Accredited Flower Show Judge.

In addition, Lynne works about 50 hours per week for a company that pays Flexible Spending Account claims and requires that she travel. She enjoys implementing new processes and having input into how things are going to work within the department. She is lucky she has an understanding husband that has a similar schedule.

Lynne's blames her mother (in a good way) for her involvement in Garden Club who as her Girl Scout Leader used to say "I want a volunteer and I want every hand to go up". Working together at so many levels, Lynne feels that you get to meet different people and work through different challenges while learning so many things. What a way to see the world!



NOMINATIONS FOR WGCF OFFICERS: 2017-2019 TERM

Sylvia Lowell, Nominations Chair

Laura Skoff, 2nd Vice President Milwaukee District

As a child, Laura spent most of her free time playing in a nearby park pretending she lived in the woods with animals (much to her mother's disapproval)! Joining Girl Scouts in grade school offered an opportunity to attend day camp and become a Campfire Girl while developing a respect for the environment plus enjoying the outdoors and nature. Furthermore, spending summers in Hayward, WI fishing and picking wild blueberries in bear country, a curiosity about animals was triggered which resulted in a study of the animal kingdom. Laura's father was a landscape architect and both of her grandfathers were the family gardeners.



Laura joined Elmbrook Garden Club in 1994 and feels fortunate to have Judy Newman in her club serving as a mentor who freely shares her vast knowledge! Currently serving her third term as Milwaukee District Recording Secretary, WGCF Awards Chairman, Endangered Species Chairman and Finance Committee member, Laura enjoys working with fellow club members at the nature center and looks forward to a holiday flower show this Winter. She is an Environmental Studies Consultant, WGCF and CR Life Member and most recently former recipient of the "And Then Some" Award for the Milwaukee District. Laura became a licensed Realtor in 1990 and has spent the last 20 years working in real estate administration & marketing. As a docent at the Milwaukee County Zoo since 1992, she teaches the public about animal species - a dream come true? In her free time, Laura enjoys

gardening, attending NGC Conventions, golfing and traveling with my husband, Jerry, around the world photographing endangered animals. She is looking forward to growing with WGCF!

Maureen Wild Gordon, Membership Secretary, Madison District

Gardening has been a part of Maureen's life since childhood, working with her mother in a



vegetable garden and in her grandfather's raspberry patch. Maureen, a Master Gardener in Rock County, has volunteered at Rotary Gardens in Janesville since 2003. She attended her first Sunset Garden Club meeting in 2006 and is currently serving as Sunset's recording secretary. For the last eighteen months, Maureen has had an opportunity to serve as WGCF Membership Secretary, assisting members, committees and the WGCF Board in many endeavors including access to the members only section of the website.

She enjoys spending time with her husband, Jim, adult children and grandchildren. By profession, Maureen is a Nurse Practitioner in Endocrinology at UW Hospital with a focus in Diabetes.

Maureen looks forward to continuing to serve as membership secretary and assisting WGCF to sustain and grow its membership.

Mary Jane Hull, Treasurer Madison District

Mary Jane Hull joined the Mound Vue Garden Club in 2004 after retiring from a career in insurance and real estate and moving to Mt. Horeb, WI. Mary Jane has been the Club treasurer for twelve years. One of the things she achieved was putting club financial records on Quick Books, which gives detailed accounting records. Over the years, she has been active in many Club activities such as volunteering at the State Convention and participating in District activities like the district scholarship committee for several years.

Her gardening interests began by growing up on a 'showplace' farm which had large gardens and many flower beds. She enjoys working with her grandchildren, both of whom are highly interested in nature and biology. Mary Jane's organizational skills and focus on commitments will enable her to carry on the duties of WGCF State Treasurer.



WANTED!
A W&CF RECORDING SECRETARY

Do you like socializing with other garden club members; don't mind taking notes and would like to have your registration paid for at the Annual Meeting??

Meetings take place in Wausau so travel is minimal.

Contact Sylvia Lowell, slowell844@gmail.com to recommend someone or volunteer for the job.

News from Clubs around the state

Lake Wissota Garden Club, Chippewa Falls

Barb Barrickman, President

This fall Lake Wissota Garden Club members had the opportunity to tour the Chippewa Valley Technical College Energy Education Center in Eau Claire as we took our October meeting to the Center. It was a wonderful learning experience for all of us as we met with Susan Frame, the director of the Landscaping, Plant and Turf program. Lake Wissota Garden Club supports this program with an annual scholarship. To see the opportunities for a student in this program has made us realize how much our scholarship can mean. Utilizing state of the art equipment the student receives training in: landscape management, golf course and athletic field management, greenhouse operation and management, vegetable and fruit production, and interior plantscaping. The students are required to do an internship with businesses that provide these services. This gives them an opportunity to get real world experiences while still in school. Many businesses partner with the program in researching new ways to grow plants including vegetables and herbs more efficiently.

One of the highlights of the day was a tour of the "green" building that houses the Energy Education Center. Built with high efficiency rated materials, the building utilizes solar, groundwater heat and wind technology to power, heat and cool the facility. Rainwater is diverted and stored to provide water for toilets. Energy efficient lighting fixtures are in use. The greenhouse is a new design and first of its kind in Wisconsin. Computers monitor and are used to find ways to best manage all the resources more efficiently. Best of all, the entire building shows off this technology with open walls allowing you to see the technology at work offering students and visitors, such as us, the opportunity to learn daily green practices that can improve our environment.

We encourage you to visit your area technical college, fund a scholarship, and see what they can offer you.

Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Submitted by Debby Walters

Eight third grade students from Greenfield Elementary in Baldwin, WI took the initiative to enter the Woodsy Owl "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land" poster contest sponsored by the National Garden Club and the U.S. Forest Service. The contest gives students a chance to demonstrate through posters their understanding of environmental conservation principles. Third graders were invited to participate in the poster contest by the Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club as a follow-up to their fall school forest visit.

Woodsy Owl has been an icon for the conservation of the environment since 1971. Woodsy has helped inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, planting and caring for trees, using resources wisely, and not littering.



**90th Annual Business Meeting
Luncheon Speaker, Joe Cook
"The Rewards of Being Green"**



Joe Cook is in his 25th year of teaching German at Sparta High School. Since 2008, he has also supervised the school's Earth Club. His dedication to conservation and the environment began at an early age while watching his grandparents farm their land with an interest in preserving woodlands and croplands. The Earth Club has been doing multiple things to reduce its footprint on the environment while helping the district financially. They set up a district recycling and sustainability program that has been expanded to include the purchase of an Ecovim. This is an industrial - type food dehydrator recycling the high school's food waste. Using student-raised funds, matched by the school board, the dehydrator was purchased in 2014. This is the first such purchase by any high school in the nation. The dehydrator produces gray water and an inert soil augmentation. Joe and his students have received much recognition via news media. Recently, state recognition from the DNR came in the form of the Recycling Excellence Award for Projects and Initiatives.

Where is the Convention?

Gerianne Holzman, WGCF President

Many long-time garden club members would expect to see WGCF convention information in this issue of *Wisconsin Gardens*. So where is it? We are trying something new for the next two years. A bit of history may help to clarify our WGCF meeting experiment. Many years ago, the WGCF held its annual business meeting and convention in the fall. Some members felt this was a great time of year for a meeting as gardens were still in bloom and it was a slower time of year for gardeners compared to the spring. A number of years ago, the WGCF came into alignment with the National Garden Clubs (NGC) so our fiscal year and officer terms are the same as NGC. This made sense for bookkeeping, officer plans, etc. Not all of our members have been pleased with this situation.

Based on feedback from members' surveys, at the WGCF strategic planning retreat in 2014, attendees discussed separating out our annual business meeting and the educational components of the convention. This would keep us in alignment with NGC for officer/fiscal year and satisfy the desire of some to move back to fall for our tours and programs. The WGCF executive committee, in October 2015, decided a good time to try this experiment would be in 2017 since that is also the year that Wisconsin hosts the Central Region (CR) meeting. Since the first year of trying something new can sometimes be rocky, the executive committee voted to do a two-year experiment to see if members like the changed format or prefer the traditional convention.

Therefore, this year, we will have our annual business meeting and officer installation on May 5, 2017 at the Jefferson Street Inn in Wausau. It is a one-day event dedicated to the business of the WGCF. Clubs will send their delegates (usually club president) and alternate delegates as in the past. Club membership determines the number of delegates allowed. Please refer to WGCF bylaws for more information. (Bylaws and standing rules are in the members' only section of our website.) The day will begin with business. We will break for lunch and awards bestowment along with a presentation by our Bronze Award recipient. The business meeting finishes after lunch with a mid-afternoon break. The day concludes with installation of our new officers. Wausau is chosen as a central location so members do not need to stay overnight although hotel rooms are available for those wanting to come early or stay late and explore the area.

In October, we will be "Digging in the Dells." On October fourth, the Central Region (CR) begins its annual convention with its executive board meeting. The CR one-day convention takes place on October 5 with three meals and programs plus its annual business meeting. Programs include invasive plants as well as floral design for transitioning through the fall into winter. We hope Nancy Hargroves (NGC president 2017-19) will be available to join the festivities. The CR meeting concludes after the banquet on October 5.

(Continued on Page 8)

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation
90th Annual Business Meeting

Friday May 5, 2017 (8:30 – 5:00)
City Grill at Jefferson Street Inn
201 Jefferson Street, Wausau 54403
715-845-6500



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

District _____ Garden Club _____

Please check any that apply:

WGCF Officer Club Delegate Club Alternate Guest

WGCF Annual Business Meeting Luncheon Speaker: Joe Cook

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

Meeting registration deadline is April 15, 2017. Please send registration form and check, made out to WGCF, for \$36 to:

Lynette Rakun
WGCF Treasurer
6622 County Road V
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Please make hotel room reservations directly with the **Jefferson Street Inn at 715-845-6500**. Room rate is \$129 (King or Double Queen) + tax + \$2.00 parking and includes continental breakfast. Mention WI Garden Club Federation to obtain this special rate. Room reservations must be received by April 4, 2017.

Please note: this form is a fillable pdf and may be completed on your computer.

The fillable pdf is on the WGCF website. You may use the above form or the fillable pdf for your Registration for the Annual Meeting.

Where's the Convention? (continued)

October 6 and 7 brings the WGCF sponsored Garden Education Summit (GES) and Tri-Refresher. Two packed days of educational seminars and tours include something for everyone. Confirmed speakers are the following:

- Noel Valdes (inventor of Cobrahead weeder) – raised veggie gardening
- Mark Dwyer (horticulture director at Rotary Gardens) – winter garden interest
- Luke Kloberdanz (education director of the Ice Age Trail Alliance) – Ice Age Trail
- Bernadette Williams (WI DNR) – jumping worms
- Melinda Myers (nationally recognized garden expert and author) – pollinator gardens and gardening Q&A along with book sales and signing opportunity

Wonderful guided tours include visiting the Aldo Leopold Nature Center along with Leopold's famous Shack and the International Crane Foundation, home of all 15 species of cranes. Finally, a naturalist-led boat tour of the Wisconsin River during fall color time will be a special treat. We are also planning a couple of great hands-on workshops. We conclude the entire event with a lively auction by our very own Mary Kulhanek.

Members interested in refreshing their status as a gardening education, landscape design or environmental consultant must attend at least eight hours of the GES and pay a small extra fee. There will be no official WGCF business at the GES therefore no one is **required** to attend. However, we hope that all of you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to go "Digging in the Dells" for gardening, environmental, floral and landscape design education as well as fun, friends and fellowship.

Congratulations!!

Awards given at Central Region Convention in October, 2016

Award 5 - Sharing with Habitat 1st Place: Milwaukee District

Award 8a - Standard Flower Show Schedule 2nd Place Floral Designers of WI, Brookfield

Award 8c - Educational Exhibit 1st Place: Floral Designers of WI, Brookfield

Award 9 - Cultivating Community Plantings 1st Place: Western Acres Garden Club, Menomonee Falls

Award 11 - Sharing the Future 3rd Place: Hill and Dale Garden Club, Elroy

Award 13 - Sharing Native Plants 2nd Place: Elmbrook Garden Club. Brookfield



Congrats to Gerianne!!

WGCF was represented in the NGC photo contest celebrating the National Parks. Gerianne Holzman received a 2nd place ribbon in Scene class of the NGC photo contest. The photo was taken in Denali National Park and the image is the mountain Denali aka Mt. McKinley.

President's Project: Hilary Grace Healing Garden

Janis Dixon and Nancy Sloan, President's Project Co-Chairs

It's been a beautiful and exciting year at Hilary Grace and now the garden is being put to bed for the winter. To date, contributions to the President's Project have totaled \$5021.75. And while WGCF's involvement is coming to an end for this season, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their help. Our hats go off to Cathy Schrauth from Lake Shore Garden Club, Sheboygan District; Dawn Mozgawa, Judy Niederberger and Karen Lee-Wahl from Sugar River Garden Club, Madison District; Margaret Gosselin and Rebecca Reed from West Side Garden Club, Madison District; Laurel Neverdahl and Virginia Zwickey from Olbrich Garden Club, Madison District; and Bo Lui, Maureen Wild Gordon, Gerianne Holzman, Pat LaGree and Barb Goldsworthy from Sunset Garden Club, Madison District. Your creative efforts kept the garden colorful and fresh throughout the year.

So, to not only our volunteers but to all the generous contributors, we give our heartfelt thanks for helping this President's Project and making a difference in people's lives.

Recent donors to Hilary Grace Healing Garden were: Oshkosh Garden Club, Hill and Dale Garden Club, Lake Shore Garden Club, Elm Grove Garden Club, Ivy League Garden Club, Green Thumb Garden Club, Lake Wissota Garden Club, South Shore Garden Club, Joan Burk-Miller, Elmbrook Garden Club, and Donna Gager.



Thanks to WGCF members and Clubs who volunteered time and made donations to the Hilary Grace Healing Garden.



Gold Star Marker Dedicated

Mary Kulhanek, Publicity Chair

Several hundred people gathered on October 15, 2016 at the Sheboygan County Veterans Memorial Park for the dedication of the first Gold Star Memorial Marker to be erected in Wisconsin. Special guests were Gold Star families, those who had lost a family member in service to the USA. It was overcast day with the flag flying at half mast to honor another Wisconsin veteran being buried in Janesville, WI. Cpl. Donald Hendrickson's body had finally returned home following the 1950 Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War.

On a gentle rise behind the Veteran's Memorial arches more than 380 singleton boots, some black, some brown, some tan, were displayed in neat rows with an American flag placed at each, and with the name of a veteran from Wisconsin who has died since 9/11 attached to the boot.

Andrea Little, National Garden Club Federation Blue and Gold Star Marker Chairman stated "the Gold Star Memorial Marker program was developed as an emotional and social conduit for healing, an assurance to families who still struggle with separation and loneliness, that the sacrifice of their fallen family member will always be remembered and honored. These fallen heroes and their families, leave a legacy of patriotism and sacrifice. They will have a cherished place in the history of the United States, and in the hearts of the people they liberated."

Like the Blue Star Memorial previously installed at Veterans Park, the Gold Star Memorial Marker was funded by Ivy League Garden Club of Sheboygan. A garden will be planted at the base of the marker in the spring.



NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Marker Chair Andrea Little, with WGCF President Gerianne Holzmann, Central Region Director Judy Newman and Ivy League Garden Club President Lynnette Rakun (above left); WGCF members who attended the dedication (above right); Andrea Little (below left); Chuck & Linda McLafferty, WGCF Blue Star Marker & Gold Star Marker Co-Chairs (below center) and Members of Ivy League Garden Club (lower left).



Garden Journal Now Available

Gerianne Holzman, WGCF President

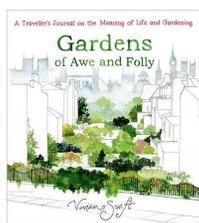
The long awaited WGCF member-written Month to Month Garden Journal is now available for purchase. The cost is \$13. Copies are available through your district directors or by contacting Mary Kulhanek (marykulhanek@sbcglobal.net). Do you have a garden center or garden gift shop near you? Might they be interested in selling the Journal? Wholesale orders are available through Mary. Here's a preview of what to expect:



The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF) sponsored Month to Month Garden Journal is written by gardeners for gardeners. Members of the WGCF provide weekly tips for you to follow through the year. Each page provides space for your notes to allow you to look back year after year to remember “when you planted your peas” or “when your first lily was in bloom.” You may want to note plants that did not perform well in your garden or new varieties to try next year. You can make note of a special garden or gardening event to visit next year. Garden journaling provides an opportunity to look back at your year and remember the first butterfly of spring or the first frost that nipped your Impatiens but gave the promise of glorious fall days full of color and crisp air. You may even want to add a few photos of your own garden.

Book Review

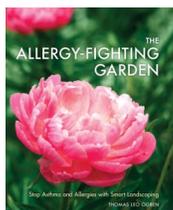
Kay Villa



Gardens of Awe and Folly: A Traveler's Journal on the Meaning of Life and Gardening

by Vivian Swift, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016, 169 pages. Suggested Retail: \$28.00

This book makes me happy. It was a joy to read, to absorb, and to be carried away by the words and images. It wraps up all of my interests in one book – travel; garden, landscape, & architectural design; history; art; and drinking tea. The author travels to nine locations around the globe with the sole purpose to visit a specific garden and have a conversation with it. She sleuths out the history and stories about the evolution of each garden, the local climate, the plants, the people and their culture, and describes the design and composition of each garden and how it makes her feel. Her watercolor paintings of each garden are the visual journal records of her visit to this “place.” She also stops to rest and refresh herself with a cup of tea or the local libation along the way. This is the perfect book to read during the long cold winter months. Make yourself a cup of tea and curl up by the fire and allow yourself to travel to nine amazing gardens.



The Allergy-Fighting Garden: Stop Asthma and Allergies with Smart Landscaping

by Thomas Leo Ogren, Ten Speed Press, 2016, 248 pages. Suggested Retail: \$22.99

This book should be added to the reading lists and course materials covered in the National Garden Club's courses in Landscape Design, Gardening, and Environmental Studies. The information is invaluable! If you or one of your family members suffers with asthma or allergies put this book on your reading list. Or if you serve as an advisor to a community parks or city planning commission, this is a great opportunity to learn more about ways to help your community make wise plant choices.

This book is easy to read and well organized. Part One discusses botanical sexism and our current allergy crisis (there are way too many male plants in our urban communities), how to fight allergies close to home, understanding plant sex, the use of allergy blocking hedges, how to eliminate mold spores, and how to fight allergies in your neighborhood and city. Part Two focuses on understanding the plant allergy scale rating system, how to use the system, and an A to Z listing of plants with their allergy ratings. The book also contains a glossary of horticultural terms, recommended readings, useful websites, a pollen calendar, and USDA plant hardiness ratings.

There is so much useful information in the book that can be applied in our gardens and with a few simple choices we can improve the air quality near our home and our communities. Grow more plants that have perfect flowers (male and female parts are adjacent to each other) because the pollen doesn't have far to travel. Plant female plants instead of males – males are notorious for emitting lots of airborne pollen. If we only grew female plants and no males there would be no pollen and no fruits (no plant litter to clean up). By growing plants that require fauna pollination (eg., bees, bats, birds) because the pollen sticks to these creatures and is carried to the plant pistil for pollination; the pollen isn't floating around in the air waiting for us to inhale. Reduce plantings of specimens that use airborne pollination for reproduction as these plants spew out tons of pollen in to the air (examples – seedless mulberries or red maple). If these species were grown with a female near by, the pollen is taken out of the air; but if there isn't one, the pollen hangs around for a long time or creates a cloud of dust. Another strategy is to install a living hedge on the windward side of your property to reduce the amount of allergens that is carried to your property. My recommendation to the author is to add a list of hedging plants for the various regions in the country. This book should be read by all gardeners and landscape professionals and please pass the information along to gardeners in your region so that we can begin to have a major impact on air quality.

Gardening Study School Update

Lucy Valitchka, Gardening Study School State Chairman

The third course of Gardening Study School Series 8 is scheduled for April 21-22, 2017 at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, WI.

Course I enrollment in April 2016 was 28 students on Friday and 23 on Saturday. For Course II in September 2016, 22 students attended on Friday and 21 on Saturday. We hope the students who are taking the series for credit will continue as they are half completed with the series.

Consultants may refresh their credentials at these schools. This is required at least every five years to remain accredited through the National Garden Club Federation. Consultants may refresh as often as once a year. The NGC schools offered in Wisconsin are on a rotating basis. When we complete our series this fall we won't offer another Gardening Study School for two years. During that time, Flower Show School and Environmental Studies will be offered. That is why it is a good idea for consultants to take a course once a year during a series.

Our schools are open to the public. Anyone may participate in the schools and are not required to take the exams unless they want to become a consultant.

While you are getting a break from outdoor chores this winter consider what we have to offer at our school in April. We will be covering: Container Gardening; Weed Control; Factors that Influence Plant Growth; New Plant Development & Evaluation and Houseplant Basics.

In addition we have planned a wonderful teaching tour of the Green Bay Botanical Garden on April 21st. Yes, we know there could be snow on the ground, but NGC does not allow us to switch classes from one course to another. Maybe in the future they can be encouraged to be more flexible. I was advised by NGC that there is a lot more to gardens than blooms. "The bones of the garden is where it is!" Look outside now & you will see what I mean.

Take a look at the GSS registration form that is included with this issue of *Wisconsin Gardens* (pages 13 & 14). It has everything you need to know about our school.

If you have any questions contact any of the people listed on the form. We are happy to assist you. If you have never attended a Gardening Study School give it some serious thought. We guarantee you will not be disappointed.

To All My WGCF Garden Club Friends:

Thank you for your comforting expressions of sympathy.

You will always be remembered with deep gratitude.

Love and Peace,

Carole Hopp

The Prudisch and Hopp Families



WGCF Website: Members Only

Debby Walters, Webmaster

Perhaps the most confusing portion of the WGCF website is the log in procedure and changing your password to one that is easily remembered. If you experience difficulty doing this, please use the contact us link on the About Us page to alert us to the problem. The problem can be fixed.

Why visit the Members Only section? The Members Only section contains a listing of the executive board, the by-laws and standing rules, dues structure, awards and procedures (also found on the Awards page), minutes from the Executive Council, the directory, convention procedures and reports, and financial reports. In other words, information about the inner workings of the organization.

Instructions to assist you with changing your password:

1. Use the address below to go to the log in:
<http://www.wisconsinclub.org/wgcfadmin/?action=lostpassword>
2. At the website, it will ask you to enter your email address as the username. Please use the email address you have provided to WGCF.
3. Press the button to Get New Password. Please keep your link open and open another link to your email.
4. You will receive an email from WGCF password reset that looks similar to this:

Someone requested that the password be reset for the following account:

<http://www.wisconsinclub.org/>

Username: your email address

If this was a mistake, just ignore this email and nothing will happen.

To reset your password, visit the following address:

<<http://www.wisconsinclub.org/wgcfadmin/?action=rp&key=o6ASQ3qNreaRvYdXPHju&login=youreemailaddress.com>>

5. Press the button at the end of the email sent by the website and it will take you to the reset site. There it will have a password in the box. You can keep this password or delete it and provide your own password of choice.

Be aware once you have your email, there is a box you can check to remember you and not be required to enter the password each time.

If you continue to have difficulty accessing the site you may contact Debby Walters at vikingms76@gmail.com or Maureen Wild Gordon at wildgordon@prontomail.com

WGCF Scholarship Fund

Be part of a winning team and help students by contributing to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Since 2001, WGCF has awarded a total of \$105,500 in scholarships to worthy students.

Contribution slips are on page 15 of this publication and on the WGCF website.

Julie Schoenike, Scholarship Investment Liaison

Registration Form
Gardening Study School
Series 8-Course III
April 21-22, 2017
Fox Valley Technical College

NAME _____
 PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/ST/ZIP _____
 DISTRICT/CLUB _____
 EMAIL _____

Fees:

- \$ _____ Both days _____\$50
 - \$ _____ Both days (after Apr. 7) _____\$55
 - \$ _____ One day _____\$30
 - \$ _____ One day (after Apr.7) _____\$35
- Mark date: _____April 21_____April 22

\$ _____\$10 tour fee for Green Bay
 Botanical Garden on April 21

Specify which one if taken for NGC credit
 \$ _____Refresher _____\$5
 \$ _____Exam _____\$5

ADVANCE LUNCH RESERVATIONS ONLY

(provided by FVTC Food Service)
 \$ _____Friday, April 21_____ \$12
 \$ _____Saturday, April 22_____ \$12

Circle Yes/No for your confirmation by e-mail

\$ _____ Grand Total Enclosed/
 Check Number _____

Please make check payable to:
WGCF Gardening Study School
 See mailing instructions for Registrar, Jeanne Baum

CONTACT INFORMATION

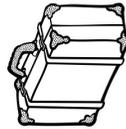
Local Chairman: Marion Books
 W8490 Cry MM, Hortonville, WI 54944-9801
 (920) 779-6656 gemabooks@att.net

WGCF Chairman: Lucy Valitchka
 N2695 Meade St., Appleton, WI 54913-8349
 (920) 733-0568 lmvvalitchka@new.rr.com

WGCF President: Gerianne Holzman
 7437 Terrace Ave., Middleton, WI 53562-3154
 (608) 345-6097 geriannewgcf@gmail.com

Registration Contact:
Jeanne Baum, Registrar
 N2670 Meade St, Appleton, WI 54913-
 (920) 731-9140 kjebaum@gmail.com

No refunds after April 10, 2017.
A 25% handling fee will be retained on all cancellations.



LODGING

Comfort Suites Appleton Airport
 (920) 730-3800
 3809 West Wisconsin Ave. Appleton, WI 54914
 Comfort-appleton@wiscohôtels.com
 www.wiscohôtels.com

Rate: \$92.00 expires on 3/21/2017
 Use code: Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL
SERIES 8-COURSE III

April 21-22, 2017

Fox Valley Technical College
Agriculture Building
 1825 N. Bluemound Dr., Appleton, WI 54912
 920-735-5691—FVTC Security # for emergency, only

www.fvtc.edu
 check the above website for campus map
 Enter campus on south round-a-bout
 Follow signs to Agriculture Building

SPONSORED BY
WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION
 www.wisconsinngardenclub.org

Gerianne Holzman, President
 7437 Terrace Ave.
 Middleton, WI 53562
 (608) 345-6907
 geriannewgcf@gmail.com

This Course is Open to the Public



GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL SERIES 8-COURSE III

(Class times subject to change due to instructor's schedules)

FRIDAY, April 21, 2017

8:00-8:25 a.m. _____Registration
8:25-8:35 a.m. _____Announcements
8:35-8:45 a.m. _____Load up for tour
8:45-9:15 a.m. _____Travel by cars to Green Bay
9:25-11:25 a.m. _____Teaching Tour Green Bay Botanical Garden
11:25-11:35 a.m. _____Load up for return
11:35 a.m.-12:05 p.m. _____Travel to FVTC
12:15-12:45 p.m. _____Lunch
12:45-2:45 p.m. _____Tom Jensen
*Container Gardening-Outdoor
2:45-3:00 p.m. _____Break
3:00-4:00 p.m. _____Kimberly Miller
Weed Identification, Treatment, Control
4:00-4:30 p.m. _____Exam Review

SATURDAY, April 22, 2017

8:00-8:25 a.m. _____Registration
8:25-8:30 a.m. _____Announcements
8:30-10:30 a.m. _____Vijai Pandian
*Factors that Influence Plant Growth
10:30-10:45 a.m. _____Break
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. _____Dick Zontag
New Plant Development & Evaluation
12:15-12:45 p.m. _____Lunch
12:45-2:15 p.m. _____Roxanne Rusch-Oleson
*Houseplant Basics
2:15-2:30 p.m. _____Break
2:30-3:00 p.m. _____Exam Review
3:00-6:00 p.m. _____Exam

*Exam to be given on these topics

Open book for Factors that Influence Plant Growth
May use book, "Botany for Gardeners"

INSTRUCTORS

Docent
Green Bay Botanical Garden

Tom Jensen,
Manager, Landscape Maintenance Division
Vande Hey Co. Inc.

Kimberly Miller
Horticulture Educator
Winneshago County UWEX

Vijai Pandian
Horticulture Educator
Brown County UWEX

Dick Zontag
President of Jung Seeds
Randolph, WI

Roxanne Rusch/Oleson
Horticulture Instructor
Fox Valley Technical College

STUDY GUIDES

National Garden Clubs, Inc. no longer requires a text book for Gardening Study School. Outlines provided by instructors are the preferred study guidelines. Attendees may purchase the text "Botany for Gardeners". The 3rd edition by, Brian Capon, is available in paperback or as an on-line version.

ELIGIBILITY TO BECOME A GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL CONSULTANT

Student attendees must:

- Belong to a garden club affiliated with a state garden club in National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)
- Earn a passing grade of 70% on all exams in the four courses.
- Complete all four courses between 2 to 7 years.
- Courses may be taken in any order or back to back.

FOR NON-MEMBER STUDENTS

- Courses and exams are open to everyone.
- Consultant Certification cards are issued only to members of NGC.

- Non-member students successfully completing all (4) courses may apply for Consultant Certification upon joining an NGC affiliated Federated garden club within 6 months after series completion.

- Certificates of Completion are awarded to non-member students attending a full series.

REFRESHER CREDIT

Refresher Credit for Consultant and Master Consultants is granted within one to five years following receipt of Consultant or Master Consultant Certification.

NGC 4-STAR & 5-STAR MEMBERS

NGC 4-Star Members are honored after completing all (4) NGC educational programs.
NGC 5-Star Honorees must refresh to the Master level in all (4) programs.

Dates to Remember

- February 10-12 Garden Expo, Madison
- February 15 WGCF Awards Committee - Wausau
(evening meeting)
- February 16 WGCF Winter Executive Committee -
Wausau
- April 21 - 22 Gardening Study School, Appleton
- May 5 WGCF Annual Business Meeting,
Jefferson St. Inn, Wausau
- May 16 - 21 NGC Convention, Richmond, VA
- June (TBA) WGCF Summer Executive Committee
Meeting, Wausau
- August 25-26 Flower Show Symposium, Milwaukee
- September 8-9 Gardening Study School, Appleton
- September 12-15 NGC Fall Executive Board Meeting,
St. Louis, MO
- October 4-5 Central Region Meeting, Wisconsin Dells
- October 6-7 Garden Education Summit &
Tri-Refresher, Wisconsin Dells



May the sun rise on new beginnings for
 your New Year. Wishing you peace,
 President Gerianne
 President-elect Peggy

**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

Memorial Scholarship Fund Donations

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



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

CLUB NAME _____ DISTRICT _____

DONOR NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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

DONATION TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

DONATIONS APPLIED TO PRINCIPAL

INDIVIDUAL/CLUB DONATION

WISCONSIN LIFE MEMBERSHIP

IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



6622 CTH V
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

wisconsinclub.org

Deadline for Spring Issue: February 1 — Submissions Welcome
Publication approximately: April 1

Coming in the Spring 2017: Arbor Day; Awards; Birds, Butterflies & Bees; Book Review, Finance Committee; Flower Show School & Evaluations; Habitat for Humanity; Horticulture; National Garden Week; Operation Wildflower; and Publicity. Articles also needed by members, please consider writing about your garden club, activities, club projects, etc.

Looking out my window . . . I'm trying to figure out what today's "wintry mix" might be. Will it be snow, sleet, rain, freezing rain, or all of the above? There's already clean, white snow in the back yard covering nearly everything, with a recently added crust of ice on that snow. Yet I notice there are some lumps and clumps in that snow – could it be that someone didn't get all of the flowers (or weeds) cut down in the fall?



As I'm looking out, I'm also seeing the new look of my backyard. This part of the yard changed in the fall when a tree was cut down. That tree-cutting came after the wind knocked down one third of a dying locust tree. Removing that tree will change the nearby flower garden – Oh gee, on this wintry day I can be dreaming about the "summery mix" of annual flowers and perennials that I could add because a large area has now become a sunny area.

One of my goals for this year is to try to use positivity in more situations, and now I have a chance to put that into practice by thinking about how I might work with these changes, instead of dwelling on the cost of the tree removal. I told a friend that each time I feel a negative thought slipping into my mind, I want to counteract it with a positive idea. Each day we can choose whether to be grateful or disappointed. We have the choice of approaching each day with positive thoughts or grumbling about what is happening.

It's up to me to see the possibilities of what changes I might make in this landscape. It's up to each of us to determine our attitude about changes that happen in our lives. In the year ahead, WGCF and each of our clubs & districts will face new opportunities and possibilities. May we each work at carrying the attitude of positivity into these new opportunities and challenges.

Carla

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