



Volume 69, Issue 1
Winter 2018

Wisconsin Gardens

Flower Show School

to be offered in Sheboygan in May 2018

Julie Schoenjike

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"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

- Barbara Winkler

Ivy League Garden Club along with Wisconsin Garden Club Federation will present Course I, Series IX on May 1-3, 2018 at the Maywood Environmental Park, Sheboygan, WI.

This course will offer you the opportunity to learn and to improve your exhibiting skills as well as earn credit to become a National Flower Show Judge. Course I should be taken first and then followed by the other schools in any order. Two National Garden Club Instructors, Judy Newman and Helen Surridge, will teach the classes. The topics instructed will be daffodils, flower show procedure and aloe.

Several other NGC Schools have been offered at Maywood over the past years. The location is convenient for members as well as guests.

We are truly fortunate to be included in this activity that helps people to smile by creating beautiful gardens and to enjoy a happy life. Sheboygan welcomes you! All are invited to register! Our future lies with the education of gardeners.

If you have bulbs in the spring that didn't get planted in the fall, plant them as soon as you can in the spring. Bulbs bought in the fall and not planted, will not survive until the following fall. As long as there is some hardness to the bulb, put them into the ground as soon as you can in the spring or early summer.

Additional information and Registration Form for Flower Show School are on pages 9 & 10 of this issue.

Registration deadline is April 23, 2018.

Gardening for Good

Education

Service

Friendship



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

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

WGCF 2017-2019 Officers:

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landmhull@yahoo.com

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Vinton, IA 52349-9480
franstueck@yahoo.com

NGC President: Nancy Hargroves

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

A Message from our President

How the time is flying! I can't believe that it is already 2018! As the snow and temperature continue to fall, it is time to look towards Spring. It helps to see those seed catalogues arriving in the mail. This is a time to plan for the upcoming growing season.



WGCF is using this time to plan as well. Our executive board meeting is on February 15. In addition to our business meeting, there will be an organizational meeting to plan for the 2020 National Convention which will be hosted by WGCF. Kitty Larkin and Liz Murken have a great start in making this an educational and fun event.

The WGCF Grant committee will be announcing plans for Grants to be awarded in the spring of 2018. I am sure that your clubs have many outstanding community service projects planned for the coming year. Make sure that you apply for a grant. (See page 3 for information and application procedure.)

Our annual meeting will be held on April 26 at the Holiday Inn in Rothschild, WI, a suburb of Wausau. We hope to see a lot of you at this meeting. (Additional information on page 5.)

I urge all clubs and districts to be on the lookout for fraud. This has become a huge problem, and no one is exempt. It seems to be everywhere. Please look at the information included in this magazine (page 7) on how to protect your information and finances.

In 2015, WGCF suspended having an annual convention, in favor of having a business only meeting in spring, to be followed in the fall with a fun, educational event. We gave this trial a two-year commitment to see if it would better serve our members.

This year, there will be a Gathering for Gardeners in Stillwater, MN on October 12-13. It is being sponsored by both WGCF and the Minnesota Federated Garden Clubs. Entitled "River Rendezvous", the event will focus on the St. Croix River which flows between the two states. Planning is underway to make this a must attend event.

I attended several district meetings this fall and have now visited all 7 districts. I am amazed by all of the wonderful things our clubs do within their communities. I am sure that these fine works will continue in 2018.

Warm regards, from cold New Richmond

Peggy Grubbs, President

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

ADVERTISING RATES

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

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation announces the 2018 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 \$250. In addition the program is being extended to allow Districts to apply for a Grant on the basis that a Garden Club and a District do not apply for a grant for the same project.

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. Please note that it is expected that the Club or District applying for the grant will actively participate in the project. Projects where the money is passed on to another organization without any involvement of WGCF members will not be funded.

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 2018 WGCF Grant is midnight, March 31, 2018. Awards will be announced at the annual WGCF business meeting on April 26th in Wausau. Meeting attendance is not required. Projects should be completed and a feedback report sent by November 16th, 2018.

The grant application form and project completion form can be found at the following link on the WGCF web site <http://www.wisconsin garden club.org/awards/grants/>

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

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

Sincerely,

The WGCF Grant Committee



Students in the Royall School Garden in Elroy, are shown tending their strawberry plants. Perhaps you'd like to apply for a grant for a school gardening program?



2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION

BEING HOSTED BY WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION!!!

A reenactment of “The Roaring Twenties” is being planned for 2020 in Wisconsin at the Potawatomi Hotel, Milwaukee, May 11 – 16, 2020. This will be the 2020 National Convention, hosted by Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. Many individuals are needed to play leading roles in this event by being part of the cast as a Chairman. The many unique talents of our members that have surfaced in garden club activities ensure that we will have many volunteers eager to fill the chairmanship roles.

All members of WGCF are invited to participate in the 2020 National Convention preparations for "The Roaring Twenties" presentation. We need the help of all WGCF members to welcome the NGC members to Wisconsin with a well-planned and executed convention. Several members have already agreed to serve as chairman of major committees to get us off to a great start. There are many positions still needing chairmen or Vice-Chairmen.

There are numerous opportunities for all members of WGCF to participate by being a committee chairman or serving on a committee with your club members and friends. Each chairman needs a co-chairman and/or other helpers to carry out their duties as well as other members to help cover various time slots within their chairmanship.

Also needed is someone to work with the NGC Awards Chairman, the decorations/flower arranging workroom, information center, printing, publicity, a Spanish speaking individual to register International Affiliates. All fund-raising ideas are greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2018 at the Holiday Inn in Rothschild. We will meet with the WGCF Executive Committee Meeting, during the extended lunch break. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with: Kitty Larkin – kittysltr@wi.rr.com or Liz Murken – lizmurken@gmail.com

Call to Annual WGCF Meeting

April 26

All Clubs are encouraged to attend and vote.

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

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



REGISTRATION FOR WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION 91ST ANNUAL MEETING

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

at the Holiday Inn 1000 Imperial Avenue, Rothschild, WI

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

District _____ Club _____

Please check any that apply: WGCF Officer Club Delegate Club Alternate Other

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

Deadline is April 12, 2016.

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

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

Please make hotel room reservations directly with the Holiday Inn. 715-355-1111. The Room rate is \$109 for a double Queen or \$119 for a King + tax. Mention WI Garden Club Federation to obtain this special rate.

Room reservations must be received by March 26, 2018. The room rate includes a hot and cold cereal, coffee, tea, whole fruit, yogurt, breads, bagels and hard boiled eggs.

We hope to see you there!

Life Memberships

Gerianne Holzman, Chair

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

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

It is easy to apply for life memberships, simply go to the WGCF website (wisconsin-gardenclub.org), click on forms and scroll to the specific membership of interest. All forms are fillable PDFs or can be printed and completed by hand. All directions for needed information and where to send are included on the forms. If someone is already a life member, you can still honor her/him with a tribute donation. We currently have 498 WGCF life members. Who wants to take us over 500? Please consider honoring yourself or someone else with a life membership as we *Garden for Good – Education!*

Milwaukee Art Museum Art in Bloom:

A Tribute to Art and Flowers



April 12 – 15, 2018

Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club invites you to explore art and floral design at the 11th annual Art In Bloom. Over 40 floral arrangements interpreting various works of art will be on display in the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee, WI. Floral designs range from whimsical to elaborate depending on the artwork interpreted.

- Tour the Museum
- Sign up for lectures and workshops
- Bid at the MAM Garden Club silent auction
- Shop in the bustling Market Place

Group rates are available for groups of 15 or more so get your garden club members, family and friends to join you for a delightful day.

For a unique experience, attend the Floral Fashion Show. Featuring fashions created from plant materials and showcased by models on the runway Saturday evening, April 14, 2018.

For Art In Bloom group rates, reservations and/or Fashion Show ticket information contact the Milwaukee Art Museum at 414-224-3200. More information, including a schedule of daily events, will be available closer to the event date at mam.org/bloom.

10 Things You Can Do to Avoid Fraud

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine new technology with old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. Here are some practical tips to help you stay a step ahead.

- 1. Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a **government official**, a **family member**, a **charity**, or a company you do business with. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request – whether it comes as a text, a phone call, or an email.
- 2. Do online searches.** Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like “review,” “complaint” or “scam.” Or search for a phrase that describes your situation, like “IRS call.” You can even search for phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.
- 3. Don't believe your caller ID.** Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.
- 4. Don't pay upfront for a promise.** Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like **debt relief**, **credit** and **loan** offers, **mortgage assistance**, or a **job**. They might even say you've won a **prize**, but first you have to pay taxes or fees. If you do, they will probably take the money and disappear.
- 5. Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don't. **Wiring money** through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is **risky** because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. That's also true for reloadable cards like MoneyPak, Reloadit or Vanilla. Government offices and honest companies won't require you to use these payment methods.
- 6. Talk to someone.** Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you. Slow down, check out the story, do an **online search**, consult an expert – or just tell a friend.
- 7. Hang up on robocalls.** If you answer the phone and hear a **recorded sales pitch**, hang up and report it to the FTC. These calls are illegal, and often the products are bogus. Don't press 1 to speak to a person or to be taken off the list. That could lead to more calls.
- 8. Be skeptical about free trial offers.** Some companies use **free trials** to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel. Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the cancellation policy. And always review your monthly statements for charges you don't recognize.
- 9. Don't deposit a check and wire money back.** By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a **fake check** can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be a fake, you're responsible for repaying the bank.
- 10. Sign up for free scam alerts from the FTC at ftc.gov/scams.** Get the latest tips and advice about scams sent right to your inbox.

If you spot a scam, report it at ftc.gov/complaint. Your reports help the FTC and other law enforcement investigate scams and bring crooks to justice.

Information from the Federal Protection Agency website

WGCF Gardening School

Lucy Valitchka, State Gardening School Chair

Another Gardening School series is completed and we now have four new Gardening Consultants. They are: Sandi Brown and Laura Skoff from Menomonee Falls, Cheryl Lauston from Brookfield and Jim Vest from West Bend. By the way Jim is our first male Gardening Consultant. Congratulations to all.

Six other attendees have taken some courses and passed exams for them. It is our hope that they will continue with Gardening School in a future series or take courses out of state. Check *The National Gardener* for current schools. These attendees records will be kept on file to alert them of any new schools.

It was mentioned in the Fall 2017 issue of *Wisconsin Gardens* that if we had enough funds remaining from our series that we would donate to the Fox Valley Technical College Scholarship Foundation. This was in thanks for use of two rooms at the Fox Valley Technical College Agriculture building. Funds were available and donated at the FVTC Scholarship Donor event on November 2nd. The donation was given to the J2RB Scholarship fund. This is an endowment specific to horticulture. It was started by Roxanne Rusch-Oleson and Jim Beard. Both have been instructors for a number of times at our Gardening Schools. Jim Beard is retired from FVTC. Roxanne is still employed there and attended the event with a student.

Thanks again to all who made this school series possible: Marion Books, Local Chairman; Jeanne Baum, Registrar; Gretchen Vest, Tri-Council Treasurer; our dedicated instructors; Fox River Valley District clubs that helped with refreshments and especially all the attendees. You made the school worthwhile.

I am sharing a quote from Bonni Dinneen, our wonderful NGC accreditor from Massachusetts. She got it from writings of Gertrude Jekyll, a famous British horticulturist, garden designer, artist, and writer. Gertrude Jekyll born on November 29, 1843 died on December 8, 1932 in Surrey, United Kingdom.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."



During the Fox Valley Technical College Foundation donor appreciation event held on November 2nd, a scholarship was awarded to an FVTC student. Pictured in the above photo (left to right): Lucy Valitchka, the horticulture scholarship recipient, Roxanne Rusch-Oleson who is one of the sponsors of the scholarship WGCF donated to and Julie Coenen, FVTC Scholarship Manager.

FLORAL DESIGNERS OF WISCONSIN

present "Beauties of Spring"

A Small Standard Flower Show



to be held at:

Pro Health Care Regency Senior Communities

Brookfield

777 North Brookfield Rd.

Brookfield, WI 53045

April 21, 2018

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 22, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Entries open to all members of WGCF

Flower Show School Course 1

Flower Show Procedures	2 hours
Horticulture	5 hours
Design	5 hours

Required Reading

The following required reading list applies to all Flower Show School courses. Students should read pages as noted in Student Outlines provided by each course instructor.

The National Gardener Magazine
1344 Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Revised Edition (3 Ring Binder) \$25.00
1173 Outlines of Period Flower Arrangement (Hannay) \$5.00
1341 Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging
\$30.00

Recommended Reading

Guide to the New Petite Floral Designs
Anna G. Burns
Hortulana The 21st Century Edition
(Heber) \$10.00
Plants and Their Respective Families
Designing by Types (Osborne) \$44.95
Table Settings For All Seasons (Wood & Smith) \$34.95
Plant Families for Designers Constructing Monobotanic Designs

Recommended Lodging:

Quality Inn
4332 N 40th St, Sheboygan, WI 53083
920-457-7724

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

COURSE 1, SERIES IX

MAY 1 - 3, 2018

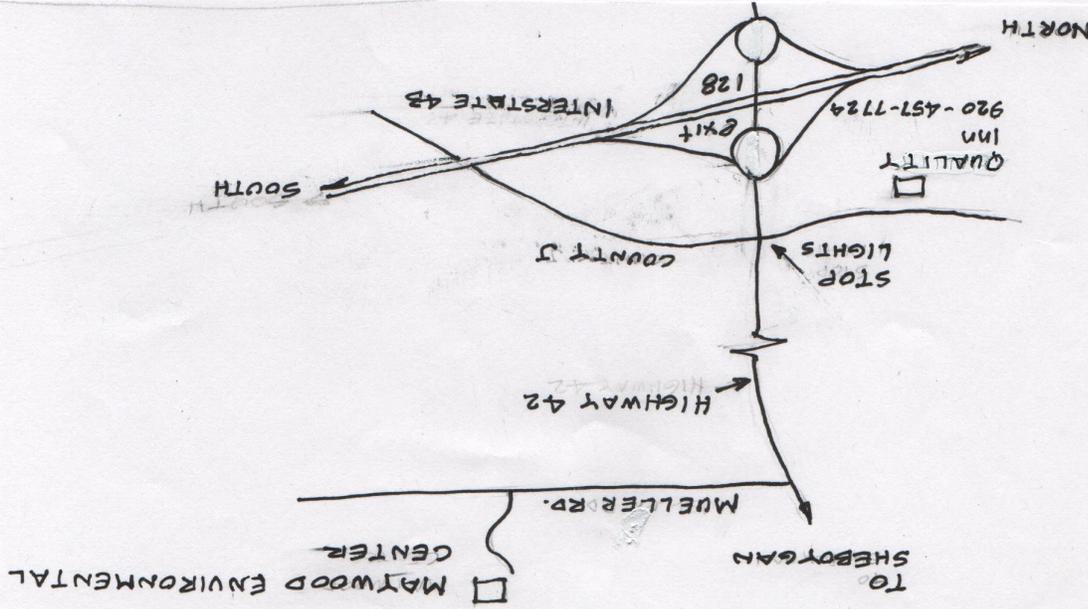
MAYWOOD

ENVIRONMENTAL PARK
3615 MUELLER ROAD,
SHEBOYGAN, WI 53083



SPONSORED BY:

WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB
FEDERATION
IVY LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

- 8:00-8:25 Registration
- 8:25-8:30 Announcements & Introductions
- 8:30-9:30 Flower Show Procedure – Judy Newman, Instructor
- 9:30-10:30 Horticulture – Judy Newman, Instructor
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-12:30 Horticulture Instruction
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-3:45 Horticulture/Point Scoring Practice
- 3:45-4:00 Break
- 4:00-5:00 Horticulture Point Scoring Exam

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

- 8:00-8:25 Registration
- 8:25-8:30 Announcements & Introductions
- 8:30-9:30 Flower Show Procedure – Judy Newman, Instructor
- 9:30-10:30 Design, Helen Surridge Instructor
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-12:30 Design Instruction
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-3:45 Design Instruction & Point Scoring Practice
- 3:45-4:00 Break
- 4:00-5:00 Design Point Scoring Exam

Thursday, May 3, 2018

- 9:00-12:00 Written Exam

INSTRUCTOR PROFILES

Judy Newman

Judy, a member of the Elmbrook Garden Club since 1971, and more recently Floral Designers of Wisconsin, is a 5-Star member (Master in all four schools). Served as WCGF President from 2003-2005 and Director of Central Region 2015-2017. She earned a BS degree in Family and Consumer Education and a Master's Degree in Education. Other major interests include genealogy and sewing. Wrote and published two books – one on her family and one on her husband's family. A teacher at heart, she has taken five two-week trips to Honduras teaching sewing. Judy enjoys sharing her knowledge and joy of gardening as one of the historic gardeners at Old World Wisconsin. Her gardens are full of native plants which she shares with others at the Elmbrook Nature Center.

Helen Surridge

Helen lives in Shorewood and joined the Greenhouse Garden Club in the mid 80's, where she accepted many positions, including Milwaukee District Director. She became a flower show judge and moved up to become a Master Judge. She is also a Gardening Consultant, an Environmental Consultant and a Landscaping Design Consultant, achieving the Four-Star status. She became an instructor through the Prospective Instructor Program. Helen has taught in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. She is also a long time member of Ikebana Chapter 22.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

CLUB _____

DISTRICT _____

Choose Attendance type:

_____ 2 Day Course \$75.00

_____ 1 Day Only \$40.00

_____ 5/1 OR _____ 5/2

Lunch Optional – Registration Required

_____ May 1 \$10.00

_____ May 2 \$10.00

Total amount due _____

Make check payable to WCGF Flower Show School. Send check to Lynette Rakun, 6622 County Rd V, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.

Ph: 920-946-1673 lmrakun@live.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 9 - 11 WI Garden Expo, Madison
 February 14 WGCF Awards meeting, Rothschild
 February 15 WGCF Executive Board meeting,
 Rothschild
 April 26 WGCF Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn,
 Rothschild
 May 1-3 WGCF Flower Show School,
 Sheboygan
 May 21-24 NGC Annual Convention, Philadelphia
 June 14 WGCF Exec. Board Meeting,
 Details TBD
 Sept 26-28 NGC Fall Board Meeting, Orlando, FL
 October 12-13 WGCF Gathering for Gardeners,
 Stillwater, MN

2020

- May, 2020 NGC National Convention, Milwaukee

IN MEMORIAM

Joyce Beth, age 77, lifetime resident of Two Rivers, died on Saturday, November 11, 2017.

Joyce enjoyed gardening, community and cultural events. She was a long-time member of the Cool City Garden Club (serving as president from 1988-2000), and the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. She served as Sheboygan District Director 1993-95, 1999-2001, and 2003-2007; and in 1998 received the Sheboygan District 110% award. Joyce assisted the WGCF Scholarship Selection Committee for many years.



Joyce was an elementary school teacher for 40 years and continued to spend time in a Guided Reading program after her retirement. Joyce was also active in Delta Kappa Gamma, her church (especially education programs) and the Lester Public Library.

Many of us have fond memories of Joyce's enthusiasm and entertaining stories. Her dedication to WGCF is greatly appreciated.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

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

Memorial Scholarship

Fund Donations

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



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

CLUB NAME _____ DISTRICT _____

DONOR NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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

DONATION TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

DONATIONS APPLIED TO PRINCIPAL

INDIVIDUAL/CLUB DONATION

WISCONSIN LIFE MEMBERSHIP

IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



709 Brookstone Crest
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

wisconsinclub.org

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Deadline for Spring Issue: March 1 — Articles and Photos Welcome

Publication approximately: April 10

Coming in the Spring 2018: Arbor Day; Organizational Studies (By-Laws); Design; Environmental Concerns; Historian; Horticulture; National Garden Week; Operation Wildflower; Strategic Planning.

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

Looking out my car window on a recent trip to LaCrosse, I was awestruck by the beauty of the crystalline frost on the trees, bushes, weeds and grasses. This beautiful hoarfrost could be observed on the hills of my journey but then I would drive back into the valleys, and the landscape changed greatly — just a little snow on the ground and bare trees and bushes. I slowed a bit to enjoy the marvelous landscape on those hills, but then grumbled to myself that I couldn't stop to take photos because it might mean that I would be late for a medical appointment. Along the way, I met a few Amish buggies and wondered if the drivers were enjoying the view since they were travelling at a much slower pace.



*Photo by Bobi Cripe
of Tilling Thyme Garden Club*

These thoughts — amid my hurried schedule — led me to reflecting on how we are often in such a hurry to get somewhere, to an appointment or whatever, that we miss that beauty of a sunset or sunrise, the frosty trees and snow-covered landscape.

Let's each take time to slow down and enjoy our surroundings. And while we are in the "slow down" mode, perhaps we can also look around to find a friend who needs a listening ear, a neighbor who could use a helping hand, or a child who needs a hug. There is so much to see on these wintery days.

Carla

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