



Volume 72, Issue 3  
Summer 2021

# Wisconsin Gardens

*Take Flight and Soar*  
with  
Wisconsin  
Garden Club  
Federation



 WGCF President's Project 2021-2023  
International Crane Foundation Federation Fields

Photo by Ted Thousand

The International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, WI was founded in 1973 as the world center for the study and preservation of the endangered family of cranes. It is the only place you can see all 15 species of the world's cranes. In 1979, a 160-acre tract of rolling meadows was purchased to restore a complex of wetland, prairie, oak savanna and forest habitat. WGCF purchased a 10-acre tract of land as a donation to Co-Founder Dr. George Archibald and ICF. In 1984, a donation of \$4,000 provided "seed" money for what is known as Federation Fields - the center of prairie restoration.

New efforts have begun for additional prairie restoration with a focus on a three-quarter-acre hillside converging with prairie and oak savanna. A mixture

of native seeds that have been collected on-site will be scattered. As the **2021-2023 WGCF President's Project**, the new and continuing restoration of Federation Fields, as well as native plantings surrounding the overlook observatory, will be a tribute to Wisconsin Garden Club Federation's commitment and culmination at The International Crane Foundation.

If you have questions about our project, please contact the President's Project Chair Jim Vest at [jmvest9@aol.com](mailto:jmvest9@aol.com) or (262) 388-3720.

To support our project, donations may be sent to:  
WGCF: Mary Jane Hull - Treasurer  
709 Brookstone Crest  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

*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 2021-2023 Officers:**

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

**First Vice President: Linda McCafferty**  
 443 Woodview Drive  
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
 608-837-2675  
 lkmcmm@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: Carol Yee**  
 5224 Grand Ave.  
 Western Springs, IL 60558-1826  
 708-927-9937 cell

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

**Message From Our President....**

With a smile on my face, I am seeing clubs participating in garden walks, field trips and plant sales once again. Members laughing and thinking positive thoughts as they venture out together to share their love of gardening. As resilient as those stubborn “unscheduled” plants in our gardens commonly known as weeds, we are moving forward and enjoying the fruits of our labor.



Our WGCF website and publication of *Wisconsin Gardens* has a special place for you to share photos and project information that other members would enjoy viewing, so please remember to submit your experiences!

The new theme for WGCF is *Take Flight and Soar with Wisconsin Garden Club Federation*. I invite members to ascend to new heights - take the opportunities to acquire new knowledge by attending club meetings with interesting speakers, virtual and in-person NGC schools and upcoming conventions with educational programs and tours. One of the many benefits of being a member in our great organization is easy access to all of these! Who would have thought a little more than a year ago, we would be “Zooming” everywhere to stay connected with each other.

You may check out upcoming courses in Gardening, Environmental, Flower Show and Landscape Design on our NGC website under **Schools**. We are currently looking to fill the positions of WGCF Garden and Environmental Schools Chairs, so if you think you would like to step into one of these chairmanships, please contact me.

The Central Region Convention will be held November 1-2 in Middlebury, Indiana and our own WGCF Convention is being planned for April 24-26, 2022 at the wonderful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. Both conventions will be in-person and promise to enlighten you while rekindling friendships. Please plan on attending!

I close with a segment titled “Porch Protocol”. Many of you probably grew up with a front porch or enjoy one now. I have personally spent many, many hours contemplating life (as well as my gardens, people walking or driving by and the sights & sounds of nature). Whether you are alone or sharing thoughts with another, the solace a porch can bring is undeniable. Protocol dictates a cool drink in hand and it’s up to you to choose an appropriate beverage. So here’s to all the cold beers, lemonade, iced tea or nice Chardonnay we will enjoy this summer.

*Laura*

**ADVERTISING RATES**

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

## Traveling around the State

with WGCF President Laura Skoff  
& 1st Vice President Linda McCafferty



**Sheboygan District Officers:** (L–R) Treasurer Lynnette Rakun, Secretary Doris Weber, WGCF President Laura Skoff; WGCF 1st VP Linda McCafferty; Director Karen Merlau, Vice Director Gretchen Vest.



**Coulee District Officers:** (L–R) Director Debbie Keesler, WGCF President Laura Skoff, WGCF 1st VP Linda McCafferty, Vice Director Kathy Casberg.



**Milwaukee District Officers:** (L–R); 2nd Vice Director Laurie Wareham; Treasurer Veronica Wallace-Kramer; Recording Secretary Kerry Krokos; Director Diane Olsen; WGCF President Laura Skoff; WGCF 1st VP Linda McCafferty; Parliamentarian Kitty Larkin; Corresponding Secretary Ruby Kerr.



**St. Croix District Officers:** (L–R) Secretary Susan Wallace, Vice Director Bonnie Schwichtenberg, Director Debby Walters, WGCF President Laura Skoff, WGCF 1st VP Linda McCafferty, Treasurer Susan Johansen.

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## Congratulations to 2021 WGCF Award Winners!!



**LYDIA SHAFER AWARD**  
*presented to*  
*Susan Johansen*  
*by WGCF President Laura Skoff*



**BRONZE AWARD**  
*presented to*  
*Larry Conrad*

*The following is a portion of the Presentation read by Mary Ellen Sedlacek for the Presentation of the Bronze Award to Larry Conrad.*

Growing up in the mountains of Vermont, Larry developed an appreciation for nature at an early age while fetching his grandfather's cows from the mountainside for milking. He attended Boston University and then Westmar College in western Iowa. While at Westmar, he met his future wife, Sarah. They settled in the Rosendale area and taught at Laconia High School. They purchased the Oak Lawn Cheese Factory and renovated that building. They have lived there since 1972. Surrounding the building are two acres of lush vegetation carefully tended by Larry and Sarah.

Magnolias being a favorite, Larry has fifty trees of forty plus cultivars planted. Other trees include European Beech, flowering crab, a variety of oaks, birch and maples. He also has rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas, shrub roses, lilacs, altheas, bottlebrush buckeye and viburnums. Tree peonies, as well as herbaceous peonies are displayed with Siberian irises and conifers. His lily exhibit being extensive is the highlight of the gardening season. Larry utilizes the rocks from the surrounding area to make fences and much of his trellising materials have been garnered from his own cedars and arborvitae.

Larry and Sarah garden, because they love to do it together. The delight is not only theirs, as they frequently have admiring guests, and their garden is the focal point for many professional photo occasions. They have had as many as 1500 visitors in a season. Larry feels that he should share what the good Lord has provided for them, and they enjoy meeting new friends.

Today Larry is retired from Laconia High School, but he is not idle. He spends hundreds of hours creating reproduction Tiffany Lamp shades to help cover his gardening expenses. Gifted artist that he is, Larry is able to duplicate his vision in his high end Tiffany Reproduction Shades that he sells on a commission basis at Conradartglassgardens and on his Facebook page.

Larry and Sarah thank you for your devotion to nature and your generosity in sharing it with others.

*Editor's note: You can view their lovely gardens and the Tiffany Lamp Shades on his Facebook page and website.*

## Congratulations Award Winners!!

Ruth West Horticulture Award	Lake Wissota Garden Club (Honorable Mention)
Conservation Award	Elmbrook Garden Club
Pat Dvorak Yearbook Theme Award	Lake Shore Garden Club
Dorothy Nelle Sanders <i>Small Standard</i>	“Fairy Tales Galore” Western Acres Garden Club
Wisconsin Judges Council Educational	“Fairy Tales Galore” Western Acres Garden Club
Ruth Smith Evaluation	Sandy Ingram
Murken Memorial Scholarship Fund	Fox River Valley District
Nancy Gotham Endangered Species	Elmbrook Garden Club

## “And Then Some” Award Winners

Fox River Valley District	Marion Books	Paper Valley Garden Club
Madison District	Eugenia Beecher	West Side Garden Club
Milwaukee District	Kerry Krokos	Western Acres Garden Club
St. Croix District	Jeanne Wright	Lake Wissota Garden Club
Sheboygan District	Sally Neuhaus	Lake Shore Garden Club

## YEARBOOK PLACINGS 2021

<b>CLUBS with 12 Members or Less</b>	Sun Prairie Garden Club	1st Place
	Elmbrook Garden Club	2nd Place
<b>CLUBS with 13-17 Members</b>	Wisconsin River Garden Club	1st Place
	Bay Gardeners	Honorable Mention
<b>CLUBS with 18-22 Members</b>	Paper Valley Garden Club	Honorable Mention
	Bangor Garden Club	Honorable Mention
<b>CLUBS with 23-29 Members</b>	Sunset Garden Club	3rd Place
<b>CLUBS with 30-39 Members</b>	Lake Wissota Garden Club	1st Place
	Oshkosh Garden Club	Honorable Mention
<b>CLUBS with 40 or More Members</b>	Lake Shore Garden Club	1st Place
	Green Thumb Garden Club	2nd Place
<b>Pat Dvorak Yearbook Theme Award</b>	Sunset Garden Club	Honorable Mention
	Bay Gardeners	Honorable Mention
	Lake Wissota Garden Club	Honorable Mention

## News from Clubs around the State

### Botany, Belles & Beaus Garden Club

The Botany Belles & Beaus Garden Club teamed up with the Woodville Homeschool Group to create a rain garden in the parking lot retention pond in Woodville. The homeschoolers wrote a St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners grant, BBBGC wrote a WGCF grant and also helped fund the project. The retention area has been planted with a selection of native plants to create habitat and also an area more interesting to look at than a dirt hole. The planting is done, now for the watering in this dry year, and maintaining the garden. *(photo at right)*



### Elmbrook Garden Club

#### PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP!!

Elmbrook Garden Club members promoted membership in their club, as well as selling signs, books, and kids' butterfly catching kits during a recent Farmers Market.

Club members (left to right): Laura Skoff, Rose Bauer Heald, Flo Paulson, Judi Wisla. *(photo at left)*



### Lake Wissota Garden Club

Members of the Lake Wissota Garden Club continue their work on the Irvine Park Wildlife Sanctuary in Chippewa Falls. Their commitment to this project is to be admired. The Club received a \$1,000 NGC Plant America Grant for the sunny area of the Wildflower Sanctuary. *(photo at right)*



## Celebrating Arbor Day with Hill and Valley Garden Club

Kathy Casberg, Club President

Hill and Valley Garden Club, in collaboration with La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, hosted the annual Arbor Day event. The program consisted of the mayor's proclamation, the significance of Arbor Day by a certified arborist, and then the actual tree planting by the city foresters with the First Evangelical Lutheran kindergartners 'helping'. This year two memorial trees were provided by Hill and Valley. The club has been providing substantial size trees to the Myrick Park Tree Walk since 1996. However, this year the city wanted to showcase the newly renovated Badger Hickey Park on the north end of the city. Coincidentally, this park dates to 1959, the same year Hill and Valley was organized and federated with WGCF. In just the past few years, the city of La Crosse has done so many wonderful renovations to its parks. Major structures, concrete work, playground equipment, and plantings of all types are replacing aging landscapes.

The tree species planted were a Fort McNair Buckeye and a Greenspire Linden. Bronze ID plaques were also installed by each tree. After watering in the trees, the 17 children carried buckets of mulch chippings, and were instructed on how to properly mulch the 'base' of the newly planted trees. It was of particular interest that the mulch used was from ash trees taken down by the city. The La Crosse Parks Dept. has removed 6,500 ash trees to counter the Emerald Ash Borer disease. The trees became mulch. We were assured the mulch is completely free of transmission of the disease. The city has been using it around newly planted trees, as well as flower beds, and related landscape projects.

La Crosse is a TREE CITY USA, holding the designation for 32 years. Few garden clubs observe Arbor Day. Hill and Valley Garden Club is honored to be able to highlight the award given by the National Arbor Day Foundation to our city. Trees provide public enjoyment, education, and serve a major role in our ecosystem. Birds, mammals, insects, and other wildlife rely on trees for shelter and as a food source. La Crosse is committed to the continued care of its urban forest.



## **Arbor Day Celebration at Maywood**

**Karen Merlau, Arbor Day Education Chair**



I had the pleasure of attending the Sheboygan Arbor Day celebration that was held at Maywood Environmental Park on April 30, 2021.

New Mayor, Ryan Sorenson and City Forester Tim Bull had exciting news for the group in that Sheboygan is celebrating one year as a “Tree City of the World.” It is the only city in Wisconsin to have this new distinction. They have also been a “Tree City USA” city for 43 years, the longest of any city in Wisconsin. Students from Grant Elementary School were present with their parents and learned about the correct way to plant a tree from the City Forester. Three Sugar Maple trees were then planted by the students.

It is hoped that as these trees mature that they can be tapped for sap for Maywood’s maple sugaring operation. The maple syrup that is produced at their on-site Sugar Shack is used at the park’s annual Flapjack Day breakfast. It is also available for purchase in their Ecology Store.

I’m sure these students will remember their Arbor Day tree planting for a long time and will return with their own families, somewhere down the road, to check on the trees they planted.

## **Environmental Concerns**

**Vern Lowell, Environmental Concerns Chair**

Having celebrated Earth Day on April 22 makes this a good time to take stock of some of the ongoing concerns and some of the progress we have experienced in our world over the last 51 years. We have made much progress in that time. It’s important to acknowledge and celebrate that progress. Think about reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, reducing pollution of our water, taking better care of our land and all that live in and on it. Improving our environmental knowledge and skills through our reading, attending WGCF sponsored schools and networking with our local communities, schools, state and local governments, etc. Sometimes it’s as simple as striving to be picky when deciding where and how we shop for goods and services. Sometimes it’s a matter of paying attention to the increased emphasis on stewardship we see in the media on a daily basis and adjust to take advantage to something that will improve our results. It might be noting how job growth in environmentally sound jobs is growing. It seems there is a real push from federal thru state and local government and communities to get on the band wagon. Even garden clubs, yes, we are part of the solution planting more trees, more natives, removing invasive plants, working more with schools and children spreading the word on how to save the world one garden at a time.

As avid gardeners, we are in a good position to urge our political and business leaders to do more to reduce the damage we do to our world, to encourage long term legislation that will have lasting affect on reducing climate change and move us toward a safer, healthier and more just world. It’s a good time to “up our game”. I ask all of us to pass on our successes and failures and to keep the faith.



**WGCF TRI-COUNCIL SUMMER TOUR**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021, FOND DU LAC**  
**TOURING PRIVATE & PUBLIC GARDEN + LUNCH**  
**FREE TO TRI-COUNCIL MEMBERS, ALL OTHERS: \$10**

Contact Gerianne Holzman, before July 12, for more information and to register. [geriannewgcf@gmail.com](mailto:geriannewgcf@gmail.com)



## LITTLE SPROUTS FOR SAPLINGS - PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

**WGCF President Lynne Ehnert 2019-2021**

**by Kerry Krokos, President's Project Chair**

We all know how important trees are to our environment. Among their many benefits, they provide a habitat for birds and other wildlife, shade to reduce heat generated by buildings and paved surfaces, and cleaning our air by absorbing pollutants and carbon dioxide. In fact, a typical mature tree can absorb 48 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. That means one tree can sequester approximately 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> by the time it reaches 40 years of age. How great is that!! No wonder Lynne Ehnert wanted to make planting trees her President's Project. So many trees have been lost in Wisconsin due to a variety of reasons. Lynne's project helped support the NGC Plant America theme and increased our interest in reforestation of our state.

To have some fun with the project, a contest was developed involving each garden club. The winner of the contest was determined by the greatest percentage of trees planted based on the club membership as of May 2021. The response to the contest was outstanding! A total of 295 trees were planted in the state during the time span of June 15, 2019 to May 1, 2021. Of these 295 trees, 32 were planted on public lands.

Because of the outstanding response to the contest, Lynne decided that the top 5 clubs in the state would be considered "winners". These clubs were:

- 1) Botany, Belles & Beaus Garden Club, St. Croix District
- 2) Paper Valley Garden Club, Fox River Valley District
- 3) Elmbrook Garden Club, Milwaukee District
- 4) Western Acres Garden Club, Milwaukee District
- 5) Elm Grove Garden Club, Milwaukee District

Lynne honored each club with 10 trees planted in their name, by the Arbor Day Foundation. These plantings were done in an upper Wisconsin forest. This makes a total of 345 trees planted in our state. And once they are mature, that is 16,560 pounds or 8.28 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> removed from our air each and every year. What a great accomplishment and benefit for our future generations.

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation has always used its platform to help sustain and improve our environment. Each president has picked a project that helps to promote these ideals. Congratulations to Lynne and her project. It was a great success and hopefully will inspire us to continue to plant trees for a long time to come.

*Editor's Note: During the June 30th meeting, the Executive Committee decided to donate the amount that was in the WGCF Treasury for the Young Saplings President's Project for the purchase of trees at the Hank Aaron State Trail, the same place where a tree will be planted to honor NGC President Mary Warshauer.*

### Botany Belles & Beaus

# GARDEN TOUR



## July 24 from 10 to 4

### 4 gardens & Flower Show

Featured gardens:

Wendy & Dale Kramer • 1166 200th St., Baldwin	Kathleen & Tom Vandeberg • 116 Division St., Woodville
Jean & Don Nelson • 870th 12th Ave., Baldwin	Debby & Marlin Walters • 404 Walnut Dr., Woodville

#### Flower Show at Kramer's.

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More about the gardens:  
Botany Belles & Beaus Facebook page  
Botany Belles & Beaus website

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### COMMUNITY EVENT - FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

## **WGCF Scholarship Winners for 2021**

**Mary Ellen Sedlachek, Scholarship Chairman**

The state of Wisconsin was fortunate this year to have one applicant for the National Scholarship. Last year we did not have one. It is unfortunate, because the scholarship is worth \$4,000 and is the Kitty Larkin National Scholarship. It was awarded to Amelia Hayden, presently a junior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, from Sharon, Wisconsin. Studying Agricultural Education, Amelia hopes to become a high school agriculture teacher, majoring in horticulture. She previously attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison from September 2018 until December 2019.

Twenty-six students applied to the Fox Valley Community Foundation for the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Scholarships in 2021. Ten students received the available awards.

Wendy Kramer and Debby Walters assisted with examining the applications and selecting appropriate students. All scholarships with the exception of the Myrtle Ogilvie Scholarship are for students who are approaching their junior, senior, or graduate studies.

The Della Balousek Scholarships of \$2,500 each, were awarded to Evan Allan, Audrey Pelikan, and Hayden Stecker. Evan Allan, a junior at UW-Stevens Point, from Oconto, is studying Urban Forestry and Forest Recreation, and has previously worked for the Oconto County Parks and the City of Green Bay Forestry Department. Audrey Pelikan, a junior from Sullivan, at UW-Platteville, is studying Soil & Crop Science & Environmental Horticulture. She intends to further her emphasis on plant breeding and genetics in graduate school. Hayden Stecker, from Neenah, is studying Professional Horticulture at UW-River Falls. While operating his own gardening business, he has been able to pay for his education through his junior year of school.

Aurora Schmit has received the Myrtle Ogilvie Scholarship of \$1,250. Aurora is a freshman at UW-Stevens Point, from Freedom High School in the Appleton area. She will graduate with a degree in Wildlife Ecology & Management. She has had to study her first year of college virtually the entire year from home.

The Irene Straus Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Eliza Suchan, a junior from Whitelaw, studying Water Resources, at UW-Stevens Point. From a farm family, she is a terrific volunteer and frequently works as a farm hand.

The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Scholarships of \$1,000 were awarded to five students. Jaycie Glocke, Tou Vue, and Emily Yulga are all juniors. Jacob Mallat and Lucas West are seniors. Jaycie Glocke, from Appleton is studying to be a Wildlife Biologist or Zoologist at UW-Stevens Point. She works 20 hours a week in addition to several extra-curricular activities.

Tou Vue worked at MacDonald's in Eau Claire and now Menard's in Stevens Point, 28 hours a week while studying Forestry, Ecological Restoration & Management. Tou is most grateful that he received the Della Balousek Scholarship last year. Emily Yulga from Shiocton, and one of five children, studies Soil & Water Resources: Soil & Land Management at UW-Stevens Point. She is hard working and an excellent volunteer. Jacob Mallat, an Environmental Engineering student from Wauzeka, plans to continue his education after graduation from UW-Platteville with a Master's Degree. While attending Prairie du Chien High School, Jacob lettered in three sports. Science and math are his strong subjects. Lucas West from Turtle Lake, has combined his love of music with his greenhouse business. He not only studies Instrumental Music, but Horticulture as well, at UW-River Falls.

Encourage any young prospective or present college students to check out the national and Wisconsin garden club scholarship opportunities at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). Forms are due after the first of the coming year.

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

This year, WGCF Grants in the amount of \$250 each, were awarded to the following Garden Clubs:

Four Seasons Garden Club	Kenosha	Repair & Enhance Margaret Meyers Mem. Garden
Botany, Belles and Beaus Garden Club	Woodville	Converting mudhole to rain garden
Willow River Garden Club	New Richmond	Add a Garden at Blue Star Marker
Whitefish Bay Garden Club	Whitefish Bay	Develop a Community Pollinator Patch
Sun Prairie Garden Club	Sun Prairie	Build a Council Circle at Generation Park
Mound Vue Garden Club	Mount Horeb	Repair and add Gardens at Prairie Heritage Trail



Our pollinator signs make a great addition to everyone's garden! All the district directors have a supply, so it's super easy to purchase one. This is a continuation of our WGCF Fundraiser that got sidetracked during 2020, so we can use YOUR support! Cost is just \$20 each and they are easily attachable to any post.

**Book Review** by Judy Mittelstadt

**Wisconsin Gardens & Landscapes**

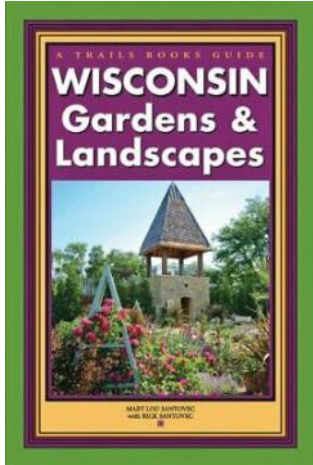
*By Mary Lou Santovec and Rick Santovec*

This guide book is a necessary addition to your library of gardening books. It has a map of the state which is broken into regions: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast, to make it easier to plan a road trip. The book includes more than 125 of Wisconsin's beautiful gardens.

I have pamphlets, business cards and computer printouts clipped to many pages of my own book with addresses, phone numbers and other information. The book includes information on admission fees, hours, and other entities.

This book has helped me with planning trips for our Garden Club. It is a nice take-along book whenever you travel in our beautiful state. In my own book, I've also included an extra state map where I have highlighted the location of each garden so when we plan a trip, I can easily see what else is available in that region.

Enjoy your visits to Wisconsin's gardens!!



**"WISCONSIN  
DREAMING"**

**A STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**

presented by

**Floral Designers of Wisconsin  
Garden Club**


At Grand Champion Hall  
State Fair Park, 640 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St., West Allis, WI  
Thursday August 12, 2021 through Sunday August 15, 2021  
Free Admission to all State Fair attendees.

**"WISCONSIN DREAMING"**

An NGC Flower Show

Wisconsin's State Fair (August 12th through the 15th) is a time to showcase the talents of the Floral Designers of Wisconsin and WGCF members. The "Wisconsin Dreaming" NGC flower show/standard flower show is presented by the Floral Designers of Wisconsin, a club affiliated with WGCF. WGCF members are encouraged to look over the schedule and participate in the design or horticulture categories. Entries must be brought in on Thursday, August 12 from 6 to 9 am.

Questions? These can be answered by one of the people listed on page 3 of the schedule. The complete Schedule is on the WGCF website under the heading of News & Events.



**Members of the Sheboygan District,  
home to Ivy League and Lake Shore Garden Clubs,  
warmly welcome Karen Merlau  
as our new District Director.**

**Our heartfelt thanks and kudos to Gretchen Vest for her  
six years of leadership.**

# Applying for an NGC Award

Mary Lenart-Kirchoff

In May, 2021, I received the National Garden Club's first place overall award for NGC Award G-2 EDIBLE GARDENING, for my 2020 vegetable garden rental plot at a community garden. My application process began last spring, when I checked the NGC website awards list under the NGC awards and grants menu.

I decided to apply for: NGC G-2 EDIBLE GARDENING - A Certificate of Merit and \$100.00 for the most outstanding garden of edibles, (fruits, vegetables, edible flowers). G-2(A) Garden of Edibles grown by an individual. The first step was to download the award application - consisting of an identification section, and a list of the following information that should be included in the application packet: On the next three pages give a brief summary and objectives, involvement of club members, other organizations, project expenses and means of funding, continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan-does not need to be professionally drawn. I also checked the scale of points that would be used to judge this award application, to identify the following additional documentation that should be included:

SCALE OF POINTS: Presentation 5 points-neat, concise, includes all required information on the NGC Application Form (3 sheets allowed). 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. Record or Documentation 5 points-supporting data, (at least one photo), clear, well-labeled, and neatly attached, any publicity, letter, etc., if planted in a public area rather than a private location.

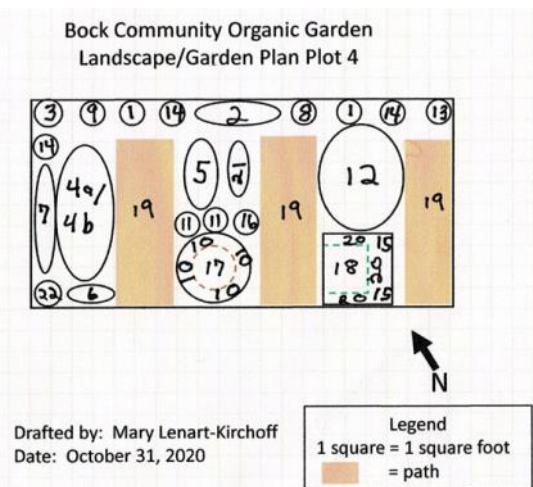
Step 2 was to plan my garden, and, with the help of my grandchildren and husband, plant it, maintain it, and take photos to document the garden's progress throughout the growing season. I created a landscape plan, compiled a plant list, and totaled the expenses for plot rental and supplies.

The final step was to complete the award application form, and use 3 additional pages to provide the required information, and present my documentation - the landscape plan, plant list, photos of the plants and the gardeners, and a copy of the excellent/model garden rating that my garden received from the community garden's steering committee.

Prior to the December 1, 2020 deadline, I mailed this packet to my state awards chair for judging at the state level. My award application received first place for NGC G-2 EDIBLE GARDENING G-2(A) Garden of Edibles grown by an individual, and it was forwarded to National Garden Clubs, where it was judged against entries across the country, and across size levels - individual member, garden clubs of several sizes and multiple garden clubs.

My award application received 100 points and tied for first place overall, across all size levels. NGC awarded me a first place Overall Winner Certificate of Merit and a check. NGC published the following description on the NGC website:

NGC G-2 EDIBLE GARDENING OVERALL WINNER (tie): Mary Lenart-Kirchoff of Sunset Garden Club: G-2(A) - Wisconsin -Mary established a 20' x 10' rental garden plot that is not only attractive, but also produces vegetables, edible flowers, and herbs. It is an organic garden that she uses to give her grandchildren an organic garden learning experience. Her rental plot received Excellent/Model Garden ratings.



## **NGC 2021 Convention** by Laura Skoff

National Garden Clubs, Inc. held their convention May 20-21 by Zoom with new President Mary Warshauer introducing her “Plant America – Play Outside” theme for 2021-2023. Encouraging young people to explore nature and spend more time outdoors, there is a fun workbook and activity log available on the NGC website that can be printed and shared with youth. A new photography program by NGC is being developed to educate members interested in improving their skills. Eventually a judging program may also be developed in photography.

A tour of Charleston Gardens is scheduled for March 20-25, 2022 with five nights at the French Quarter Inn in Charleston, SC. For details contact Mary Ann Bryant at: maryannbryant1@gmail.com

Convention dates for 2022 are May 15-19 at the Rosen Plaza Orlando, Florida. The 2023 convention will be May 1-5 at the Greenbriar in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

## **Hope for Dealing with Japanese Beetles??** by Debby Walters, Webmaster

An infestation of Japanese beetles does an incredible amount of damage to flowering plants, crops (especially raspberries) and the grubs which feed on grasses damage lawns. The adult beetles begin feeding in late June and typically are present for six to eight weeks. Japanese beetles can be partially controlled by hand picking them and drowning them in soapy water, a physical barrier, and planting less preferred plants. Japanese beetle traps catch an enormous amount of beetles but tend to draw more beetles in to your yard from the surrounding area.

Is there any hope? There are two natural enemies of the Japanese beetle. The fly *Istocheta aldrichi* (winsome fly) lays white eggs on the head of adult Japanese beetles and a wasp *Tiphia vernalis* parasitizes the grubs in the spring. The fly was introduced from Asia in 1927 and the first impression was that they would be ineffective here because of the timing of the insects' life cycles, as the fly moved farther north, the life cycles began to coincide. The fly is more than a parasite, it is a parasitoid. It does more than live on its host, it actually kills the female Japanese beetles before she lays her eggs and then its pupa feeds on the body until it reemerges the following spring. Less eggs, less beetles! So as you squish or drown the Japanese beetles in your yard, check for small white dots on the insect's thorax which is an indication that the fly has done its work.

These two beetle enemies are becoming established in the Midwest; it will take time before they make a difference in the Japanese beetle population, but it is a start. Japanese beetles are here to stay but we can hope for less of them in the future.

For further information:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/jb/downloads/JBhandbook.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/jb/downloads/JBhandbook.pdf) (p.10&11)



## Operation Wildflower by Diane Powelka

Sometimes going into the woods your senses are more aware of the lovely fragrance of pine needles and a whiff of something delicate and sweet. Looking around you see some May apples, ferns waving in the wind and a few unknown flowers yet to be looked up. You can imagine all the wildlife coming out at night to forage for cover or looking for food.

Then your eyes discover that not everything is as it should be, what is happening to the beautiful forest floor? A stand of Dames Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) is taking hold and taking over the area. Dames Rocket is a lovely flower but it does not belong in the forest or in your garden. Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricate*) blooms at about the same time and is not aggressive. How do you tell the difference: phlox has 5 petals and Dames Rocket has 4 petals. Dames Rocket can and will take over an area. Please do not let it grow in your yard. It is easy to pull out. Let's put on our garden gloves and start pulling!

In the Disney Movie, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" Mickey Mouse used a magic spell for the one broom to do his work. Somehow the brooms decided to multiply and what a sight with all the brooms taking over. That is the same when one plant is planted only to have it take over and populate. The forest floor becomes a mass of one plant where no animal, birds or plants can use this useless area. So as you can see in this top picture (at right) the dominant plant is Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)!

"No way" you say but it is true. What to do, take out your burning bush as the birds eat the seeds and disperse them in the forest, parks... What do I plant instead? Maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*).

As gardeners we should do what is right and start changing our gardening practices. I did not say it will be easy but for a better world, it is up to us to respect nature and do what is right.



**Milwaukee District Garden Clubs  
Congratulate Our New State  
President Laura Skoff**

**Thank you  
and Best Wishes from all of us!!**

## Congratulations Sunset Garden Club

**Celebrating 80 Joyous Years!!**



## Blue Star Memorial Highways

by Judy Newman, Historian

Following World War II, there was a need of creating suitable memorials honoring service men and women. Earlier memorials had been stone or bronze statues or buildings commemorating. National Council Garden Club members visualized a living memorial; something very beautiful and capable of recognizing the service of the living as well as honor to the dead. In 1945, a five-mile drive in New Jersey was designated by the legislature as a Blue Star Drive planted with flowering dogwoods to honor the service men and women who served in New Jersey. No billboards were allowed on the drive. In 1945, at the National Convention in New Orleans, the Blue Star Drive Project was adopted as a National Project. The project proposed a ribbon of living memorials plantings traversing every state, to be called "The Blue Star Memorial Highway." The star was symbolic of the star of service flag, a tribute to those who had defended the United States in World War II. In 1951 the memorial was extended to include all men and women who had served, were serving, or would serve in the Nation's armed forces.



The design for the marker was the gift of Mrs. Frederic Kellogg one of the NGC Founders and early NGC President. The Blue Star Memorial Highway now crosses the country east and west in addition to many north-south segments

Wisconsin Garden Club members worked with the Wisconsin Roadside Development Council to draft up a resolution calling for the legislature to memorialize Highway 51 for a north and South route and Highways 30 and 14 and 16 to the Mississippi River for the east-west routes. Proposal was also made that the highway be called the "Silent Cross".

- November 1950 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, 411 North Grand Ave., **Rothschild**, - Wisconsin Valley District (formerly Fox Valley District) Rededicated November 11, 2007
- May 30, 1951 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, 1160 Riverside Drive, **Beloit**, - WGCF & City of Beloit
- 1951 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, USH 51 North, Rest Area 4 miles north of **Westfield** - WGCF, WHD
- October 2, 1952 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, Babcock County Park, **McFarland** - WGCF, Highway Dept. & Madison West Side Garden Club Rededicated October 22, 2011
- November 1952 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, 2126 New Pinery RD, **Portage** - WGCF
- November 11, 1955 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, Intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. & USH 51, **Hurley**. - WGCF
- May 15, 1957 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, Richard J Bong Veterans Historical Center, 305 Harbor View Parkway, **Superior** - Indianhead District, WGCF, City of Superior Rededicated October 22, 2011
- July, 18, 1957 -Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**; 247 Lake Shore Drive West, **Ashland** - WGCF
- April 15, 1994 Blue Star By-Way Marker**; S.S. Badger Car Ferry Site, 900 South Lakeview Drive, **Manitowoc** - WGCF
- October 11, 1994 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, Veterans Memorial Park, 3901 Wilgus Ave., **Sheboygan** -Ivy League Garden Club & WGCF.





**November 11 2006 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, 1195 Legion Drive, **Elm Grove** - Elm Grove Garden Club, Stenz-Griesell-Smith American Legion Post 449 & Elm Grove Beautification Committee & WGCF

**November 9, 2007 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, Clement J Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 5000 West National Ave., **Milwaukee** - WGCF

**November 2, 2013 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, Forest Home Cemetery, 2405 West Forest Home, **Milwaukee** - Milwaukee District GC, Forest Home Cemetery Historic Preservations & WGCF.

**October 16, 2016 Gold Star Memorial Marker**, Veterans Memorial Park, 3901 Wilgus Ave., **Sheboygan** - Ivy League Garden Club & Sheboygan County Veterans Memorial Committee

**August 22, 2018 Gold Star by-Way Memorial Marker**, Gold Star Memorial Garden, WI Capital Grounds, Mifflin Street, **Madison** - WGCF & State of Wisconsin

**October 23, 2020 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker**, Loop Trail Head, 70 CTH E **Houlton** - WGCF President's Project & St. Croix County

Information/guidelines for purchasing and installing a Blue Star Marker are available on the NGC Website.

#### Types of Blue Star Memorials

- **Blue Star Memorial Markers** are permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, VA Medical Centers and other civic locations approved by the NGC Blue/Gold Star Chairman
- **Blue Star Highway Markers** are permitted on highways and highway rest areas.
- **Gold Star Memorial Markers** (Tribute to Gold Star Families) are permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, VA Medical Centers and other civic locations approved by the NGC Blue/Gold Star Chairman
- **Blue Star By-Way Marker** are permitted in parks, historic Sites and other civic locations.
- **Gold Star By-Way Markers** are permitted in parks, historic Sites and other civic locations.

**Financial Report**  
**Mary Jane Hull, WGCF Treasurer**

Since the pandemic, there has been limited financial activity. I will comment on a few entries. The fiscal report will be approved at the Executive Committee on June 30 and will then be entered on our website.

Income: We collected \$9923 in membership dues. Pollinator signs purchased were \$2562. Capital Gain and Interest paid on investments was \$6,200.. We recovered \$640 from Wisconsin Dept of Revenue for state tax paid during the Central Region Convention in 2017. Thanks to Veronica, the Central Region Treasurer, for her efforts in getting this recovery. The 2017-19 President's Project (St. Croix River Project) was paid out. The Sanders Award Fund was paid out.

WGCF-West Educational Fund received \$50 in donations and the loss from the Tri-Council Refresher (\$965) was taken out of this fund per Executive Committee. Balance is \$11,855.

Wisconsin Gardens Magazine had income of \$1067 and the cost for publication was \$3,324 with \$650 taken out of the Equity Funds with Finance Committee approval.

Executive Committee expenses total \$1,274, and includes the \$25 Pandemic Stimulus checks issued to all clubs.

Annual awards and grants totaled \$2900. Technology expense \$706.

If you have any questions, or wish to have more information, please e-mail me at [Hullmary249@gmail.com](mailto:Hullmary249@gmail.com)

**wisconsinclub.org**  
**Debby Walters, WGCF webmaster,**


Look no further than wisconsinclub.org to find out about the happenings in WGCF. The website is updated within a day or two after information is submitted. Recent additions to the site include information about Laura Skoff's president's project: restoration of Federation Fields at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo and the flower show schedule for the Wisconsin State Fair. The flower show is presented by Floral Designers of Wisconsin, a Milwaukee District club. WGCF members are encouraged to participate.

Garden tour season is here. Submit your club's tour information and it will be added to the calendar found on the website. Any other activities community outreach activities? Those can be added also. Supply the who, when, where, and what information and it will be posted. If you have a flier, that can be included also. Please use the [contactwgcf@gmail.com](mailto:contactwgcf@gmail.com) address. The website is only as good as the information on it. As an organization WGCF has many programs, if you see outdated information on the website, please let me know what changes need to be made.

The National Gardener will be an online publication as of July, 2021. To subscribe to National Gardener, go to NGC website and under **Get Involved**, click on **Publications, National Gardener, Subscribe**. Fill in the information and click. You will be on the NGC list to receive the National Gardener online.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
 &  
**GOOD LUCK**  
 to  
**Gerianne Holzman**  
 who will be  
*Editor of The National Gardener*  
 and  
**Dawn Mozgawa**  
 who will be Assistant Editor

**We're so proud of you!!**



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**2021**

- July 17 Tri-Council Tour & Lunch
- October 14 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting
- November 1-2 Central Region Convention  
Middlebury, IN

**2022**

- February 17 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting
- April 24-26 WGCF Convention,  
Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake
- May 17-19 NGC Convention  
Orlando, FL
- June 9 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting
- June 22-23 Multiple Refresher, Door County
- October 13 WGCF Executive Committee Meeting

**Address changes and corrections**

should be sent to Membership Secretary:

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

**Tributes, Memorials,  
Scholarship Donations**

Tributes honor any living person for contributions to the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. Tributes also honor members who already are life members.

Funds derived from Tributes support Wisconsin Scholarships or the WGCF Ruth West Continuing Education Fund.

Memorials honor any deceased member or friend of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

Funds derived from Memorials support Wisconsin Scholarships or the WGCF Ruth West Continuing Education Fund.

Clubs or individuals may make donations to the WGCF Scholarship Fund. This is also a way of honoring a club member with a Life Membership in WGCF (\$50).

Each of these forms can be found on the WGCF website. On the opening page of the website, click on "Forms", and you will find Memorial Donation Form, Tribute Donation Form, and Scholarship Donation Form.

**Save the Date**

**Multiple Refresher**

**June 22 and 23, 2022**

**The Ridges Sanctuary**

**Door County**

*Carla*

## Wisconsin Garden Club Federation



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

**Coming in the Fall 2021: 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 window, I find myself contemplating the concept of perspective, and how we view our life's situations. Recently as my niece and I worked at pruning, weeding and mulching some neglected garden areas in my yard, a friend from our Garden Club stopped to visit. She wanted to invite me to come and see her "new gardens". On a suggestion from an Occupational Therapist, she planted a few vegetables among her roses or in small pots. With pride she commented "you should just see the squash among the roses". Since it isn't practical for her to get to a veggie garden which would be a distance from her house, she has modified her gardening so that the veggies will be at a safer distance. During our discussion, we were talking about family and I told her about my sweet great-grand-nephew and how he has round, fat cheeks just like me. She shared a memory of the first time she saw me when I was less than a year old, being carried by my Dad, and had those "pudgy" cheeks. (There is value to moving back to your hometown — hearing those memories!!) I loved her next comment of "just think how lucky you are to have those fat cheeks — you don't have facial lines! Look around at the people your age and all the lines they have in their faces". Perspective — what a grand thought!! This friend and I could be out there cursing the health issues that have become a part of our journey, or we can be learning to look at situations in a different way, and learning to make the most of those challenges. There are many lessons to learn about being willing to accept help from others — I'll save those thoughts for another day.



As we think about the many changes brought on by the pandemic, let's consider the many lessons we've gained, and the new experiences we've had. I will admit there have been frustration and sadness but let's dwell on the lessons, rather than the negatives. It's all about how we view our life's situations. *"Some people grumble that roses have thorns; I am grateful that thorns have roses."*  
— *Alphonse Karr*

*Carla*

### Editor:

Carla Von Haden  
carlav8@centurytel.net  
1504 Academy St., Elroy 53929  
920-901-3811

### Assistant Editor:

Linda Reuss  
lreuss@att.net

### Circulation:

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

**Contributors:** Kathy Casberg, Carol Catlin, Roger Greathead, Mary Jane Hull, Mary Lenart-Kirchoff, Kerry Krokos, Vern Lowell, Karen Merlau, Judy Mittelstadt, Judy Newman, Diane Powelka, Pat Ritchie, Mary Ellen Sedlacek, Laura Skoff, Carla Von Haden, Debby Walters, Doris Weber,

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