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**Where are the Officers for 2015 -2017??
News Flash!!! WGCF needs you!!!**

Marion Books, Nominating Committee Chair

This is a most unusual year. We are in need of a First Vice President and a Second Vice President.

The First Vice President position is a wonderful opportunity for someone who feels that a six year commitment as an officer is not manageable. To be eligible for the office of First Vice-President, a nominee shall have served as a member of the Executive Committee for a minimum of two years prior to election. That means any former District Director, current District Director or elected WGCF officer, past or present is eligible. We need someone who is knowledgeable about and committed to the organization to fill this role.

To be eligible for the office of Second Vice-President, a nominee shall have been a member of the Board of Directors for at least one term (two years). The Board of Directors includes members of the Finance Committee, the Organizational Study Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Editorial Staff of Wisconsin Gardens, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Auditing Chairman and the Chairmen of all Standing and Special Committees. If you are currently holding or have held any of these positions, please think about the possibilities of serving. Yes, it does require time and effort, but it is also a hugely rewarding experience. WGCF members are terrific, helpful people. Meeting, working with, and knowing the members as an officer is a remarkable experience.

If you know someone you think would be a good candidate, encourage them to consider a State Office and then share that name with your District Nominating Chairman or the State Chairman. WGCF needs members that are willing to be officers on the State level.



Gardening Thoughts

**“If you have a garden
and a library,
you have everything
you need.”**

— Marcus Tullius Cicero

“Take It To The Lake”

88th Annual WGCF Convention

May 28-30, 2015

Hosted by the Indianhead District
Barker's Island Inn, Superior, WI

Information about the breakout sessions, tours, banquets and meetings are included in this issue on pages 8-17.

Hope to see you there!!



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 2013-2015 Officers:

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Notes from our President

The hustle and bustle of the holidays is now behind us and it is time to begin thinking of the new year. Cold weather and glistening snow outdoors make it a perfect time to curl up next to the fire and plan for next year's garden. In the same way and, as you know, planning is taking place within our clubs for programs, projects, selection of committee members and officers. Being a garden club member means a different kind of work this time of year.



I am reminded of a story that I heard not too long ago. It goes something like this.

An elephant was taking a walk one day when he happened upon a little goose laying in the middle of the road. "Hello", the elephant says. "What are you doing laying in the middle of the road?" The little goose says, "I heard that the sky was going to fall so I am laying here with my feet up in the air ready to do my part to hold up the sky!" The elephant says, "But, you are so small and the sky is so big." The goose replies, "I am ready to do my part; not hold up the WHOLE sky!"

As amusing as that story may be, we can learn some things from goose behavior.

Did you know that geese have a common goal, connection and direction as illustrated by that "V" formation. They honk occasionally to encourage other geese and take turns in the lead when the lead bird tires.

Is your garden club "lead bird" beginning to tire? Is it time for this bird to fall back and let another "bird" lead for a while. There is a reason for limiting officer and committee terms. Rotating members through committees and officerships keeps the organization fresh with new ideas. And, when the "lead bird(s)" steps down, they are there to support and advise those who have taken a leadership role. So, when a member of a nomination committee approaches you to take on a leadership role, please consider doing the job. Remember, committees and club officers are teams who inspire, delegate, listen, and lead by example.

"Flourishing In A Garden Of Change"

Sylvia

Flower Show Judges

Kitty Larkin, WGCF Judges Credentials Chair

Our congratulations and thanks go to the five Master Judges who have elected to receive the Emeritus-Master Judge status. This group of ladies has given many years of service to WGCF and NGC through their exhibiting, evaluating and demonstrating of design techniques and horticulture practices. This status allows them to remain members of the Judges Council and does not nullify their knowledge which they are willing to share with garden club members. They will no longer be available to judge your flower shows. When you see these members please remember to congratulate them and wish them well in all their future garden club endeavors.

Congratulations to: Colleen Weiler, Ruth Smith, Karen Allen, Nancy Gotham and Ilone Underheim!

ADVERTISING RATES

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

NGC Schools - -

Are you Taking Advantage of Them?

Vern Lowell, Vice President WGCF Tri-Council
& Local Chair, Landscape Design School

As members of WGCF, we have many opportunities to advance our gardening skills. Some come with our club memberships thru the well-planned and presented programs in our regular meetings, field trips and special events. Some come thru similar programs run by other organizations such as UW Extension, Master Gardeners, local arboreta and public gardens. Some come from associating with people who know more about gardening than we do and freely share their knowledge. But, it is hard to beat the value of the NGC schools WGCF organizes and sponsors. The curriculums developed by NGC for Environmental Studies, Garden Studies and Landscape Design are thorough, well supported and up-to-date. They benefit from the dedication of committed volunteers at the National, State and local levels.

The process for making a good school happen is well established and we have considerable experience in WGCF. All of these things have made for some excellent schools. From my point of view, there is something else that makes them extra special. That is the dedication, creativity and originality of the professional doers and teachers in our fields of study. No two classes are alike even if we have an instructor repeat in subsequent schools. They bring unique knowledge and experience and really tailor their presentations to our needs, knowing we are already convinced of the value of the material, want to be there and that we will make good use of what we have learned. We have a symbiotic relationship; our questions and comments bring out the best in them and make the whole better than it could be without one of us. For example, in the most recent Environmental School, I understand a discussion of medicinal herbs and plants generated some valuable discussion on the interaction, good and bad, of some prescription medicines and some herbal or common plant remedies. How often have you had a chance to learn about that? How about the latest trends in how communities and landscape designers are making public gardens more useable and more meaningful to our communities? Or, how did we get to where we are today with how we do public and private gardens in North America? Flourishing in a Garden of Change doesn't just happen. We must continue to learn to be able to have an impact on the cutting edge issues facing conscientious gardeners. It would be hard to find a better value than our schools for your time and money. If you haven't had the opportunity to participate yet, consider enrolling in an upcoming school. Watch WI Gardens for dates, times, locations, costs, topics, etc. If our schools are not meeting your needs, please share with us what changes might make them more useful to you.

Strategic Planning Update

Gerianne Holzman,

Strategic Planning Committee Chair

The WGCF Strategic Planning Initiative continues to move forward. The items identified at the Retreat as strategic issues are communication, convention, fundraising, image & relevance, leadership, membership promotion, organizational structure and technology. The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) recently met and prioritized the items for most immediate attention. The first issues to be tackled are communication/technology (combined), leadership (including training), organizational structure and convention. The SPC feels if these topics are sorted out and enhanced, the other topics may flow from any proposed changes.

The next step is for working groups to form around each issue. The members attending the Retreat each showed interest in one or more topics. They will be asked to convene either in person or via GoToMeeting during the next month. Their task is to begin to break down each topic into action steps to be presented to the Executive Committee in February. Final working of these issues will then come before the entire membership at the Annual Meeting in Superior. The end goal is to have a three-year plan to cover all of the issues and to make changes for the good of the organization. It is very possible that the working groups will realize that current practices or slight modifications are just fine.

This is a very exciting time for the WGCF. The SPC invites any and all members to be part of this process. If you are interested in any of the topics (not just the top four), please contact me. I will put you in touch with the convener of the working groups. THANK YOU!

Environmental Studies School

Environmental Studies School, Series V, Course 3, will be offered at Concordia University, Mequon on April 10-11.

The brochure including information about course presenters, class schedule and the registration form is available on the WGCF website at: www.wisconsin-gardenclub.org under the Heading "Education".

How Can You Help?

Gerianne Holzman, First Vice President

Do you want to be involved in the future of the WGCF? Here's your opportunity to be "a bit active", "somewhat active" or "very active." Please consider volunteering to serve as a committee chair or committee member in the 2015-2017 term of office. Exciting times are coming to the WGCF as we move through strategic planning to create an even better organization for its members and the communities we serve. This is your chance to be part of this rare opportunity.

All committees are listed in the WGCF handbook and in the Fall Directory Issue. Presently, many committee chairs provide intermittent educational articles in WG and perhaps a display at convention. Other chairs and their committee members work diligently through the year to monitor the pulse of the organization. Most committee chairs serve a two-year term. The exception is Organizational Studies, Finance and Strategic Planning where members are appointed on a rotating three-year term. If you are interested in serving the WGCF in any capacity during the 2015-2017 term, please send me an email with your contact information, I will be in touch. Thanks!

Gerianne (geriannewgcf@gmail.com)

Central Region Convention



Wisconsin delegates Sylvia Lowell, Larry Goebel, Gerianne Holzman, and Lynne Ehnert (photo above) cheer on Liz Murken as she creates a floral design during the competition between the states, which was held during the Central Region Convention. Liz proudly displays her floral design (photo at right).



Ivy League Garden Club, Sheboygan District.

takes great pleasure in wishing one of its members,

Anne Coisman

a very Happy 100th Birthday!



With the New Year comes...
New Challenges & Opportunities.
May you Beat the Challenges...
& Embrace the Opportunities

Happy 2015!

President Sylvia
Vice Presidents Gerianne & Joan



Generations Park: Adventure, Opportunity, Totally Exciting!

Diane Powelka, Presidents Project Co-Chair

Have you always wanted to do something totally different with your club? Now is your chance!

Generations Park has places that need trails and you can be the trail blazers! What is needed to blaze a new trail? Club members would work with the Park Committee (I'm on the Committee), to identify a trail they would like to pursue. They would then rope the trail off to identify the work area and clear the area. It takes time to clear an area and then apply wood chips to define the path. The path should be wide enough for two people to walk through the path together. Tools needed include clippers, loppers, rakes, a wheel barrow or two, or a tarp to pull along the ground, and muscles. The park committee of Sun Prairie has a weed whacker that also could be used.

What else is going on at Generations Park?

We had the dedication of the entrance columns for Generations Park on October 18th. Both current WGCFF President Sylvia Lowell and former WGCFF President Marion Books were in attendance. We want to thank everyone in WGCFF for the financial and moral support. Donated funds not used to date will be used to further enhance the park entrance with native plants and additional improvements.

Our next big project beside the entrance is a council circle for meditation. We are very excited to be working on this project and will use remaining funds to initiate the project work for the council ring. We would encourage all to consider additional donations help us move this next phase forward. Checks are to be made out to WGCFF, send it to Lynnette Rakun at 6622 Cty. Rd.V, Sheboygan Falls, 53085 We want to thank all those who have contributed and hope to have you all visit the park and enjoy the new additions. Two Boy Scouts will be working on their Eagle Scout Badge at Generations Park in 2015, one will be putting in steps to complete a trail on the north end and the other restoring a butterfly garden.

This is a project that the WGCFF should be very proud of!!

Thank you!!



On October 18, 2014, the Generations Park entrance columns and WGCFF plaque were dedicated. Presidents Project Co-Chairs Diane and Joe Powelka (left and right in above photo) were proud to show the accomplishments to WGCFF President Sylvia Lowell and Past President Marion Books.

Taking part in the Ribbon Cutting for Generations Park (photo below, left to right) were: Jim Van Pelt, Chairman of the Park Committee; Doug Yelk, Town Supervisor and member of Park Committee; Rick Wells, member of Park Committee; Diane Powelka member of Park Committee; Lyle Updike, Town Chairman; Nate Choudoir, Vice Chairman of Park Committee.



Generations Park Chairman Jim Van Pelt presented Certificates of Appreciation to Diane and Joe Powelka during the Dedication Ceremony (photo at left). Generations Park is also the site of Eagle Scout projects. (Photo at right) Eric Pursifull (left) will be working on restoration of the butterfly garden with native plants in 2015; Tim Glennon (center) completed a trail across wetland and along north side of property line in 2014, and Jake Bolgrihn, made four picnic tables in 2014, for their Eagle Scout Badges.



News from the Clubs and Districts.....

Bay Gardeners

**Joan Goebel, President
Indianhead District**

A couple of years ago one of our members attended a seminar on community gardens at our convention. He used that information to encourage a Duluth church to turn a vacant ¼ block they owned into community gardens. They applied for grants, fenced out the deer, provided water, made many innovative garden beds and filled them with black dirt and compost. They partnered with a City food ministry and elementary school, giving away at least 400 pounds of fresh vegetables. Although not a club project, we salute Larry Goebel for taking a WGCF Seminar's vision and helping make it a reality in Duluth, MN. While at the 2015 convention you could drive about 20 minutes to see this community garden site and enjoy skyline drive overlooking Lake Superior.



Anja Johnson is one of our members who has spearheaded "Project Marigold" for our district for many, many years. She gathers the materials and recruits district club members to come and fill hundreds of Styrofoam cups with potting soil and then deliver them to local elementary school classes along with Marigold Seeds. We salute Anja for undertaking the chairmanship of this district project for so many years.



Members of Ivy League Garden Club of Sheboygan work with the Maywood Park staff and other volunteers to plant the grasses and perennials for the Rain Garden at the Park.

Ivy League Garden Club

**Susan M. Steinpreis, President
Sheboygan District**

Elwood H. May Environmental Park Rain Garden

In April 2006, Ivy League Garden Club, with financial assistance from grants, including a National Garden Club grant, created a rain garden dedicated to the U.S. Armed Forces at the Ellwood H. May Environmental Park (Maywood) in Sheboygan. The garden was planned by a local landscape firm and the planting was completed by volunteers from Ivy League Garden Club and from another group, The Wild Ones. In total, 480 perennials were planted.

A rain garden is a shallow basin of 4-8". More than 8" might pond water too long and less than 4" would require an excessive amount of surface area to provide enough water storage. The use of native plants is suggested where rainwater can soak into the ground, replenishing groundwater and protecting surface water. Native plants attract birds and butterflies, are heartier due to deeper roots, require no fertilizer and need little to no pesticides, reducing the potential nutrient and pesticides found in runoff and groundwater. A rain garden allows rainwater to soak into the ground rather than running off.

The Maywood rain garden focuses mainly on flowers, although some grasses were used, and was created mainly to soak up roof runoff (approximately 30% more water is soaked up by a rain garden than a conventional lawn).

Initial maintenance of the garden was through weeding and thinning out plants and grasses. Over the years, the garden's maintenance diminished until this spring, when the Ivy League Garden Club, in conjunction with staff members of Maywood Park, met and discussed what needed to be done to bring the garden back to a fully-functioning rain garden. Rather than weeding, a burn was done, similar to that done with prairie gardens, and the result was excellent. It allowed us to see what had survived and multiplied, which grasses and other invasive plants needed to be removed and what new native plants might enhance the functioning of the garden, with birds and butterflies in mind.

Monitoring the "Maywood" Rain Garden will be a long term project for the Ivy League Garden Club. Periodic club meetings are held at Maywood allowing club members to "keep an eye" on the Rain Garden. Club members will provide replacement plants needed in the rain garden from their own home gardens and if additional plants are needed, the Club will assist with procuring them.

Through the efforts of the Ivy League Garden Club, Maywood staff and volunteers, the Rain Garden will be fully functional and provide visual and educational value for all visitors for many years.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Madison District -

Winter in Southern Wisconsin

Vern Lowell, District Director

Winter is an exciting time for Madison District. We have great Holiday parties, new programs to keep us on the cutting edge of gardening, recruiting for our various committees and projects which will start up anew in mere weeks and plant sales will be on us before we know it. You have the same things to look forward to, but let me mention two of the most exciting upcoming opportunities to help you immerse yourselves in gardening this winter and early spring.

Wisconsin Public Television's presentation of Garden EXPO 2015 comes up February 13-15. Every year Madison District booth staffers see some of you from far and wide at this event. We would love to see even more of you at this year's EXPO. Now in it's 22nd year, WPT and the UW Extension horticulture team plan an exciting event with 100,000 square feet of exhibit space, 300 booths, including ours, and 150 seminars and demonstrations to engage your every gardening interest. There will even be a dramatic 1600 square foot garden sponsored by the Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association. We anticipate more than 18,000 visitors to pass by our booth with many stopping to learn what WGCF is all about. What better way to

drive away the winter blues than to spend a day or two visiting Madison this winter. All proceeds go to support WPT programming and public outreach. Find all the details at www.wigardenexpo.com.

You may already be looking forward to Spring. We've got something new for you there. If you can't wait for our plant sales in mid-May, how about coming to Madison Saturday, April 25, 2015 for Madison District's first ever "Garden Garage Sale". We see this as a new opportunity for raising funds to support District activities by tapping into our community's spending, rather than raising dues or otherwise hitting up our members for more money. It will also give us the opportunity for some active community outreach to promote our gardening mission. We are already setting aside items we might have taken to Goodwill or St Vincent dePaul or set out by the curb. Each club will gather our goods that have some gardening connection and could be just what you are looking for, be it tools, garden art, in-home art or anything in between. And it's a "two-fer". We will be set up across the parking lot from the Farmer's Market at the Hill Farms State Office Building on Madison's near west side. You can get all your weekend shopping done in one stop!

We would love to see you in Madison this Winter and Spring.

Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club invites you to

BEAUTY in BLOOM March 26 – 29, 2015

This event replaces Art in Bloom for 2015 due to renovations and remodeling at the museum.

Floral creations in Windhover Hall and the Lower Level will be inspired by designer garments from the *Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair* exhibition. The collection features elegant haute couture by Christian Dior, Oscar de la Renta, Valentino, and others.

Four-day event is a fusion of fashion, design, gardening, and floral activities. Complimentary programming focused on gardening, fashion, make-up/beauty and design, and colorful Market Place\Bazaar daily.

Highlights

Thursday, March 26 – Morning features installation by floral designers. Professional judging, and viewing all day. Popular Iron Floral Designer competition and Cocktail/Light refreshments reception during evening (\$20 adults/\$5Members)

Saturday, March 28 - Evening runway fashion show with fresh floral-inspired ensembles created by floral and fashion designers---a one-night, one-of-a-kind presentation. Additional tickets required.

Sunday, March 29 - Edible Floral presentation by Melinda Meyers

Daily Admission: \$15 Adults, \$5 Members For group rates/tickets and more information, contact Meghan.walsh@mam.org or 414.224.3842. Visit www.mam.org soon for full program details.

CALL TO THE 88TH W GCF ANNUAL CONVENTION "TAKE IT TO THE LAKE"

MAY 28-30, 2015

Hosted by the Indianhead District
Barker's Island Inn, Superior, WI



We invite you to come and enjoy the uniqueness of our northern venues. View Lake Superior and our St. Louis fresh water estuary aboard the Vista Queen tour boat. You can sign up for breakouts covering subjects from Bees to Trees, Local Foods to Yoga, or opt to make Nature Earrings Jewelry. Some breakout sessions are free. Sign up early as some options have limited space available.

Plan to attend the design luncheon on Friday featuring WI Creative Designers offering their interpretation of our theme, "Take it to the Lake." Plan to visit with old friends and make some new ones. Get to know our National President as she will be in attendance. W GCF President-Elect Gerianne Holzman will be installed and we will learn her vision for the next two years.

W GCF Ways and Means will be there but no vendors this year. Come and check out Indianhead's Silent Auction and the Tisket-a-Tasket raffle. We look forward to seeing everyone in May.

Standing Rules of the W GCF Annual Meeting

Carole Hopp, Parliamentarian

These standing rules are those procedures which apply only to the Annual Meeting of the W GCF. They are based on Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as applicable to the W GCF under the current bylaws. They shall be approved at the opening of each Annual Meeting for adoption by the delegates.

1. Only those wearing the Official Delegate Badges shall be seated with the voting body.
2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Meetings and the Executive Meeting shall be corrected by a committee of the body, appointed by the President. Approval shall be reported by the Committee Chairman.
3. Guests may be invited to any State Convention, but they may not vote, debate, make motions, hold office or serve on Standing Committees. They shall pay the same fee as a regular member to attend the meeting.
4. No member shall speak in debate more than once on the same question on the same day or longer than two (2) minutes without permission of the convention granted by a 2/3 vote without debate.
5. All resolutions, other than courtesy, to come before the Annual Meeting shall be sent to the Parliamentarian, in writing, at least two (2) weeks before the meeting convenes. No resolutions presented by an individual shall be considered at the Annual Meeting unless approved by the club of the member.
6. In an election year, the names of W GCF Chairmen, as approved by the Board of Directors, shall be read.
7. All CELL PHONES must be in the vibrating or off position.

See Page 21 for Proposed Bylaws Changes to be Voted on by the Membership at the W GCF Convention. In the interest of conserving paper, please bring these Recommendations with you to the Convention. Thank you.



“Take it to the Lake”

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

88th Annual Convention

May 28, 29, 30, 2015

Barker’s Island; Superior, Wisconsin

WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION
88TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
MAY 28-30, 2015
“Take It To The Lake”

Hosted by the Indianhead District

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015

		<u>LOCATION</u>
11:00 - 1:00	WISCONSIN JUDGES COUNCIL	
1:00 - 3:30	Set-Up: Tisket-A-Tasket, Silent Auction	Superior Room
1:00 - 5:00	Set-Up: Educational Exhibits	Lobby
1:00 - 5:00	Set-Up: Ways & Means	Erie Boardroom
1:00 - 5:00	Registration	Lobby
1:15 - 3:15	PRE-CONVENTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING All WGCF Officers, District Directors and Committee Chairs	Superior Room
3:30 - 4:30	BREAK-OUT SESSION Topic: “Gardens of the Duluth Grill” Speaker: Tom Hansen, Duluth Grill	Ontario Room
3:30 - 4:30	BREAKOUT SESSION Topic: “Locally Grown, Organic Farm Products” Speaker: Dave Dumke, Brule River Farm	Michigan Room
3:30 - 4:30	BREAKOUT SESSION Topic: “Mother Earth Meets Yoga” Speaker: Kym Christopherson, Delicious Yoga	Pool Balcony
4:45 - 5:45	TRI-COUNCIL MEETING	Michigan Room
4:45 - 6:30	SILENT AUCTION, TISKET-A-TASKET	Superior Room
4:45 - 6:30	WAYS & MEANS	Erie Boardroom
6:45	AWARDS BANQUET Presiding: Sylvia Lowell, WGCF President Presentation of Awards: Liz Murken, Awards Chair and Elaine Seeliger, Awards Assistant Chair Speakers: Dr. Erika Washburn and Deanna Erickson, NERR Topic: “Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve: Connecting Communities to Lake Superior”	Superior Room

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015

BREAKFAST on your own		
6:45 - 8:00	Registration	Lobby
8:00 - 10:00	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Presiding, Sylvia Lowell, WGCF President Reports of Officers Reports of District Directors Reports of Committee Chairs Memorial Service – Elvera Jacot, Memorial Scholarship Fund Chair	Superior Room
9:00 - 10:00	BREAKOUT SESSION Available to Non-delegates and Non-Board members TOUR: Bay Produce Challenge Center Topic: “Employment Opportunities for Challenged Adults Using Hydroponic Tomatoes” ** Transportation on your own – Maps provided	
9:00 - 10:00	BREAKOUT SESSION Available to Non-delegates and Non-Board members TOUR: National Estuarine Research Reserve Learning Center, Lab & City of Superior Rain Garden Topic: “Lake Superior Estuarine and Rain Garden on Barker’s Island”	

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2015

10:15 - 11:15	Registration	Lobby
10:15 - 11:15	BREAKOUT SESSION Topic: "Bee Project – Come Taste the Difference" Speaker: Jon Otis, Lake Superior Honey Co.	Michigan Room
10:15 - 11:15	BREAKOUT SESSION Topic: "Planting and Caring for Trees in the Urban Landscape: What You Don't Know Can Hurt Your Trees" Speaker: Louise Levy, Levy Tree Care	Ontario Room
10:15 - 11:15	BREAKOUT SESSION Topic: "Birds, Bees and Peas Earring Class" Speaker: Mary Bluth, Mary Bluth Designs	Pool Balcony
11:30 - 2:00	LUNCHEON Presiding: Gerianne Holzman, President-Elect Introduction of Scholarship Speaker by Mary Ellen Sedlacek Introduction of Creative Designers by Carol Larson Speakers: Six Creative Floral Designers "Take It to the Lake"	Superior Room
2:45 - 4:00	BREAKOUT SESSION Tour: Bay Produce Challenge Center Topic: "Employment Opportunities for Challenged Adults Using Hydroponic Tomatoes" ** Transportation on your own; maps provided	
2:45 - 5:30	BREAKOUT SESSION Lake Superior Boat Tour ** Round trip bus transportation provided	
6:45	BANQUET Presiding: Sylvia Lowell NGC President: Sandra H. Robinson Speaker: Kevin Schoessow, UW-Extension Area Agriculture Development Agent Topic: "Using AARS Winners in Your Own Award-Winning Gardens" Presentation of Awards: Liz Murken, Awards Chair and Elaine Seeliger, Awards Assistant Chair Bronze Award, Lydia Schafer Award Installation of Officers for 2015-17	Superior Room

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015

8:00 - 9:00	Silent Auction, Tisket-A-Tasket	Superior Room
8:00 - 9:00	Ways & Means	Erie Boardroom
8:00 - 9:00	Continuation of Business Meeting (if necessary)	Superior Room
9:00 - 9:30	DISCUSSION "Recruiting New Members" Led by Mary Beth Mahoney, Whitefish Bay Garden Club	Superior Room
9:00 - 10:00	CLOSING ACTIVITIES Closing of Silent Auction and Tisket-A-Tasket, Announcement of winners	Superior Room
10:00–11:30	BRUNCH Presiding: Sylvia Lowell Speaker: Mary Morgan, City of Superior, Parks and Recreation Topic: "Tower Adventure Landscaping" Invitation to 2016 WGCF Convention by Sheboygan District	Superior Room
11:30– 1:00	POST CONVENTION BOARD MEETING Presiding: Gerianne Holzmann, 2015-17 WGCF President	

A Tisket a Tasket

Dear WGCF members:

Winter is our time to rest from the Spring/Summer/Fall garden labors and plan for the next year. Half the fun of gardening is imagining what new plants we'll try and/or move to a new place and perspective. Indianhead District has been planning for the Spring 2015 Convention "Take it to the Lake." Please plan to join us. For several years, we have had a convention raffle called "A Tisket a Tasket" as a fundraiser that helps us balance our budget or raise funds for a special purpose. I would like to encourage you to make this year's raffle a huge success by bringing an individual and/or club donation for the raffle. Help us raise those needed funds by donating item(s) and by purchasing raffle tickets. See you there!



Joan Goebel, Finance Chair



Bay Gardeners invites Wisconsin Gardeners

to come to one of the most beautiful harbors in the world. Many beautiful vistas of the largest lake in the U.S. Regardless of the temperature outside, the Twinport's hospitality will warm you. Bring your camera, binoculars, questions and zest for enlarging your knowledge to Barker's Island Inn, May 28 – May 30th for WGCF 88th Annual Convention.



Directions to hotel

Barkers Island Inn is located on an island in Lake Superior's Duluth-Superior Harbor.

The address is 300 Marina Dr., Superior, WI

The telephone number for making reservations is 715-392-7152. Ask for WGCF Convention rates for May 2015.

Editor's Note: In this age of all of us using different electronic devices to find our route to a destination, it is probably easiest just to tell you the address of the hotel, and you can then plug that into whatever electronic device you use.

The Spooner Garden Club

Welcomes You at
WGCF 2015 Convention

"Take It To The Lake"

May 28-30, 2015

Superior, WI



*We are located 70 miles south
of Superior*

*Stop and visit us on your way up north!
Look for our points of interest in the
Spring Issue.*

"TAKE IT TO THE LAKE!"

WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION

88th Annual Convention – May 28 – May 30, 2015

Barker's Island Inn, 300 Marina Drive, Superior, Wis. 54880

Hosted by Indianhead District: Bay Gardeners Garden Club, Lake Superior Garden Club, Spooner Garden Club

Name(s) _____ Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Club _____
District _____ E-mail address for Registration Confirmation _____

Please check all that applies:

<input type="checkbox"/> NGC Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> WGCF Chairperson	<input type="checkbox"/> National Accredited Flower Show Judge
<input type="checkbox"/> NGC Board member	<input type="checkbox"/> WGCF Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Flower Show Judge
<input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life member	<input type="checkbox"/> District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Region Board Mbr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club President	<input type="checkbox"/> Provisional Landscape Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Region Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/> WGCF Former President	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/> WGCF Elected Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Past Lydia Schafer Recipient
<input type="checkbox"/> WGCF Appointed Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member since June 2014

Make Room reservations with Barkers Island Inn, 300 Marina Drive, Superior, Wi., 715-392-7152. Room rate is \$89.00 Thursday and \$99.00 on Friday night, plus tax, single or double occupancy. Coming early? Wednesday night rate is \$69.00.

Deadline for these rates is APRIL 30th. PLEASE RESERVE YOUR ROOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! Ask for WGCF Convention rates for May 2015.

Events:

Package Plan before April 30, 2015 _____ @ \$ 130.00 per person \$ _____

(includes Registration, two banquets, one lunch, one brunch and programs)

Package Plan after April 30, 2015 _____ @ \$ 145.00 per person \$ _____

Single Events: Fees for persons not taking package plan

Registration fee for persons attending a single event _____ @ \$ 10.00* \$ _____

Thursday Banquet and program _____ @ \$ 28.00 \$ _____

Friday Luncheon and program _____ @ \$ 23.00 \$ _____

Friday Banquet and program _____ @ \$ 33.00 \$ _____

Saturday Brunch and program _____ @ \$ 23.00 \$ _____

Late fee after April 30, 2015: \$5.00 per event _____ events @\$5.00 ea. \$ _____

*Single event registration fees cover costs of meal programs and speakers, breakout sessions and leaders, honorariums, and other convention costs.

Please complete reverse side of this registration form.

Breakout Sessions: Please indicate your intention to attend even if there is no charge

Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Gardens of the Duluth Grill	__ attending	No charge
Locally Grown Organic Farm Products	__ attending	No charge
Mother Earth meets Yoga (limited to 20)	__ attending @\$10.00	\$_____

Friday 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (for persons not in business meeting)

Bay Produce Challenge Center (limited to 20)	__ attending	No charge
National Estuary Research Reserve (2 groups of 25)	__ attending	No charge

Friday 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Bee Project – Come Taste the Difference	__ attending	No charge
Planting and Caring for Trees in Urban Landscape	__ attending	No charge
Birds, Bees and Peas Earring Class (limited to 15)	__ attending @ \$20.00	\$_____

Friday 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Bay Produce Challenge Center (limited to 20)	__ attending	No charge
----------------------------------------------	--------------	-----------

Friday 2:45 – 5:30 p.m.

Lake Superior Boat Tour including bus to Boat (limited to 50 with inside seating)	__ attending @ \$25.00	\$_____
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WGCF T-shirts for sale by Member Services, a new item available for pick up at Convention.
Cost of T-shirt with Logo is \$15.00

*** *T-shirt design will be posted on WGCF website as soon as it is available.*

__ Small __ Medium __ Large __ Extra Large @\$15.00 ea. \$_____

Total fees and late registration fees for breakout sessions if applicable \$_____

Make checks payable to WGCF. Send with Registration Form to Joan E. Goebel, WGCF Convention Registrar, 4318 S. Wermter Rd., South Range, Wis. 54874. No full refunds after April 30, 2015. A 25% handling fee will be retained after that date for all cancellations. The IRS does not allow registration fees to be deducted as donations to a charitable organization.

E-mail: retiredpastors@centurytel.net with questions. Registrar will confirm your registration via e-mail within two weeks of receipt of your registration form and check.



TOM HANSEN
 “Gardens of the Duluth Grill”



KYM CHRISTOPHERSON
 “Mother Earth Meets Yoga”

Tom owns the Duluth Grill with his wife Jaima. This Duluth restaurant in the blue collar Lincoln Park neighborhood serves diner food with a homemade, local twist. Thirty-three percent of their suppliers are from within 150 miles of the restaurant and even their ketchup and mustard are homemade. They have a popular cookbook which you can order online at www.duluthgrill.com/cookbook.

They have multiple gardens both on sight at the restaurant and at their home with almost 7500 square feet of growing area. They have raised beds, Hugel beds, a four-season hoop house with a 5000 gallon fish tank set up with an aquaponics system to raise Pacu fish for the restaurant. In this session Tom will discuss the challenges and rewards of cold weather gardening and share some practical tips as well.

Join Kym Christopherson in a yoga class focusing on postures that will help strengthen a gardener’s body and learn how having a strong core supports your spine. We will be opening arms and legs to stretch and lengthen. This class will also help improve your range of motion, your strength and your balance. Kym has been teaching yoga for over 20 years from ages 3 to 93! Come and experience what yoga can do for you. All levels welcome. Yoga mats will be provided. More information at: deliciousyoga@yahoo.com (Maximum of 20)



DAVE DUMKE

“Locally Grown, Organic Farm Products”

Brule River Farms is a small family farm owned by Dave and Kathy Dumke. They produce a wide variety of Chemical Free fruits and vegetables. Their free-range chickens happily provide fresh eggs. They are at the Superior and Barker’s Island Farm Markets throughout the summer and fall, with their produce, jams and jellies.



DR. ERIKA WASHBURN



DEANNA ERICKSON

Dr. Erika Washburn is the Manager of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve. An anthropologist by disciplinary training, Erika has worked at the intersection of coastal science, management and policy for nearly two decades, with time at both NOAA and EPA headquarters in Washington. Her experience includes work in the US and abroad in NGOs, academia and private consulting.

Deanna Erickson serves as the LSNERR Education Coordinator. Deanna implements and evaluates the LSNERR education program through on-site and educational outreach activities and through the development of educational facilities including the LSNERR Learning Center. Deanna works with the NOAA Education office and other NERRS to collaborate on national estuary and coastal ecosystem science curriculum.

Learn what the National Estuarine Research Reserve is doing on Lake Superior and how this ties into the educational programming for schools and the public.



Bay Produce Challenge Center

Bay Produce in Superior, WI is a year round hydroponic tomato hothouse run by the Challenge Center, a rehab center for adults with developmental disabilities. See how they produce 350,000 pounds of beef steak tomatoes, 50,000 pounds of grape tomatoes and red, yellow and orange peppers. All are hand picked. Our entire community profits, not only offering employment and therapy for its workers, but by enabling everyone to enjoy fresh ripened tomatoes even in the dead of winter. Transportation on your own; maps provided. (Maximum 20 per session, 2 sessions offered)



Tour the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve Learning Center Laboratory & Visit the Adjacent City Of Superior Rain Garden

The LSNERR was designated in October 2010 and now, in its 5th year of operations, is engaged in long term research and monitoring, education, outreach and stewardship of Lake Superior's estuarine and coastal systems. Operating in close partnership with UW Superior, the LSNERR is a UW Extension managed program administered through federal and state partnerships and led by NOAA. LSNERR is the youngest of a system of 28 Reserves across the nation and only the second Reserve designated in the Great Lakes. (Groups of 25) Maximum two groups. Located on Barker's Island, transportation on your own.



JON OTIS

"Honey Bee Project - Come Taste the Difference!!!"

Jon Otis, the apiarist, is a very busy man. Not only is he a full-time fireman, but has recently launched two new businesses; one being The Lake Superior Honey Company. He has seven apiaries (bee yards) around Duluth. One such bee yard is at the Glensheen Mansion Estate. All honey is 100% natural, raw and free foraged. Jon feels that you will agree their honey offers more unique and complex flavors than anything on the market today. COME TASTE THE DIFFERENCE!!!



LOUISE LEVY

"Planting and Caring for Trees in the Urban Landscape: What You Don't Know Can Hurt Your Trees!"

Levy Tree Care is a professional arboriculture company which offers pruning, plant health care, planting and consulting services for a very diverse clientele. The company is dedicated to caring for the trees that people love. Ms. Levy has worked as a graduate research assistant in Oregon and Alaska, served on the City of Duluth citizen Tree Commission, worked at the University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center, and assisted Duluth with its tree inventory and tree planting program. Ms. Levy earned an MS in Forest Science from Oregon State University College of Forestry. Join Louise for this timely session on trees in the urban landscape. For more information about Levy Tree Care visit the website at levytrecare.com



MARY BLUTH

"Birds, Bees and Peas Earring Class"

Mary Bluth has been designing jewelry for 15 years. Like many gardeners, Mary likes working with her hands and has a fascination with the "tiny details in nature". Besides gardening, she extends her love of natural elements to her jewelry designs. Mary is offering a "Birds, Bees and Peas Earring Class". You will learn to make a loop from a head pin and attach to ear wire. She will also demonstrate how to attach a jump ring and clasp to a bracelet and necklace using a crimp. Earring kits, and handout instructions are included. Extra kits and tools will be available for purchase so you can experiment at home. Mary will bring samples of her designs showing the endless possibilities for your own unique creations. (Maximum of 15)



NGC President-Elect SANDRA H. ROBINSON

will be installed as NGC President in May. We will be hearing about her theme for her upcoming term of office, 2015-17.



**VISTA QUEEN
LAKE SUPERIOR BOAT TOUR**

Come join us for a beautiful cruise of Lake Superior on the Vista Queen. Gather with old friends and meet some new as you enjoy this 1 hour and 30 minute, fully narrated tour of the harbor and onto the lake (weather permitting).

The first deck is fully heated and air conditioned. The second deck is an open air observation deck with seating for 40. Included in the cruise is a cash bar with snacks. Don't miss the chance to experience a new perspective of the world's largest lake! Transportation to the harbor is included. Bring a coat and we'll see you there!



KEVIN SCHOESSOW

“Using AAS Winners In Your Own Award-Winning Gardens”

Kevin is an Area Agriculture/Horticulture Educator for UW-Extension in Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer Counties. In addition to providing information and education to area farmers on crops, soils and alternative agriculture, Kevin also provides information and education on home and commercial horticulture. He has also been a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio's 'On Garden Talk'.

For the past 15 years he has partnered with Master Gardener Volunteers to develop and manage the Teaching and Display Gardens at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station. The garden includes a perennial display, landscaped annual flower beds, adaptive and container gardens, sustainable vegetable gardens, cold hardy grapes and assorted edible fruits. The garden is an official All-America Selections Display Garden, and received a first place award in 2014 and a second place award in 2013 in the national landscape design contest sponsored by the All-America Selections organization. Learn more about AAS flowers and vegetables and how they can be incorporated into your own award winning gardens.

Superior is a city in, and the county seat of, Douglas County. The population of Superior was 27,244 at the 2010 census.

Superior is at the western end of Lake Superior. Bordered by Saint Louis, Superior, and Allouez bays, the city is framed by two rivers: the Nemadji and the Saint Louis. Superior and the neighboring city across the bay, Duluth, MN, form a single metropolitan area called the Twin Ports. They share a harbor that is one of the most important ports on the Great Lakes.

Pattison State Park, a short distance south of the city, contains Manitou Falls, the highest waterfall in the state at 165 feet.

Source: Wikipedia

Lake Superior Garden Club
cordially invites
all WGCF MEMBERS
to attend the Annual Convention in Superior:
“Take It To The Lake”
on **May 28, 29, 30, 2015**
at **Barkers Island Inn**
on the pristine shores of Lake Superior.

Horticulture: POINSETTIAS

Nancy Gotham, Horticulture Chair

Poinsettias are the most popular potted plant during the Christmas Season. As a result of its importance at Christmas and its popular presence in homes and businesses, December 12 is celebrated as National Poinsettia Day to honor the passing away of Joel R. Poinsett who was the former US Ambassador to Mexico.

For decades we were told that poinsettias were poisonous if eaten by humans or pets. Recent research has proven that



poinsettias are not poisonous!

Poinsettias bloom in cream, lemon, peach and pink colors, and may have leaves splashed with white or gold. Some have been known to grow sixteen feet. When traveling through Mexico, it is not unusual to see these plants used as three and four foot shrubs in home landscapes. They are sometimes referred to as 'Christmas flower', 'Lobster flower', and 'Mexican flameleaf'.

A Mexican legend tells us how poinsettias came to be associated with Christmas. Supposedly, a child who could not afford a gift to offer Christ on Christmas Eve picked some weeds by the side of the road. The child was told that a humble gift given in love would be acceptable in God's eyes. When the child took the weeds to church the weeds bloomed into red and green flowers; the congregation felt they had witnessed a Christmas miracle.

Growing your own poinsettias is possible by taking cuttings from a plant you have purchased by:

1. Taking a three or four-inch cutting from the plant.
2. Insert cutting in a small pot with a mixture of half sand and half peat moss.
3. Keep the cutting shaded and watered during the rooting period which may take about three weeks.
4. Set the plants in larger pots in a sterilized mixture of equal parts of sand or soil, peat moss and perlite.
5. Poinsettias prefer damp soil, but if overwatered, roots will rot.
6. They resent drafts which can cause premature flowering, and bract and leaf drop.

Poinsettia Plant Care

1. Keep near a sunny window for at least five hours a day.
2. Don't let the soil dry out.
3. They prefer temperatures at 65 to 70 degrees—cooler at night.
4. They form flower buds when days are shorter than 12 hours.

Getting Poinsettias to Bloom Again

1. Protect plants about October first by placing them in a dark closet between 5:00 PM and 8:00 AM daily. The slightest amount of artificial light will inhibit flowering.
2. After 40 days, plants can be brought back out in lighted rooms.
3. With water, fertilizer and 60-70 degree night temperatures, the plants will flower during December.
4. After the plants begin to drop their leaves, stop watering to encourage dormancy, and store in a cool location (50-60 degrees F.)

Some people will say "this is too much work"; I had a neighbor who did this for decades, as she so loved the mystery of the "process". Perhaps some of you readers might also enjoy the challenge.

Happy Gardening!

Beauty in Wisconsin

Standard Flower Show



Saturday, April 18, 2015 through
Sunday, April 19, 2015
12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Regency-Brookfield
777 N Brookfield Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53045

Presented by

Floral Designers of Wisconsin
Garden Club

REGISTRATION FORM
Landscape Design School Series X - Course III

April 14-15, 2015
First Baptist Church

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ST/ZIP: _____

DISTRICT/CLUB: _____

E-MAIL: _____

- Fees:
- Both Days ----- \$60
 - Both Days After April 1 ----- \$65
 - One Day ----- \$45
 - One Day After April 1 ----- \$50
- Choose date: April 14 or April 15
- Optional Refresher* / Exam* ----- \$5

ADVANCE LUNCH RESERVATIONS ONLY

Tuesday April 14 ----- \$14

Wednesday April 15, ----- \$14

Your confirmation by E-mail? Yes/No

Total Enclosed / Check Number

Please make check payable to:
WGCF Landscape Design School

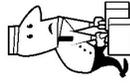
See mailing instructions → → →

 CONTACT INFORMATION

Local Chairman: Vern Lowell
3435 State Rd 78 | Mt. Horeb, WI 53572-1341
 (608) 437-8764 |  vlowell@mhtc.net

WGCF Chairman: Gretchen Vest
704 Spring Dr. | West Bend WI 53095-4642
 (262) 338-6645 |  gretchenvest@aol.com

WGCF President: Sylvia Lowell
3435 St. Rd. 78 | Mt. Horeb, WI 53572-1341
 (608) 437-8764 |  slowell844@gmail.com



AVAILABLE LODGINGS

 Americinn  (608) 662-1990
516 Grand Canyon Drive Madison WI 53719
Rate: \$82.90 ONLY UNTIL MARCH 31, 2015
Use code: WGCF
Rate not guaranteed after March 31, 2015
 America's Best Value  (608) 226-9999
3438 US Highway 12 & 18 Madison WI 53718
<i>Madison has many events, so to ensure a room, please make your reservations promptly!</i>

 Mail Check & Registration to:
Pat Anderson, Registrar
4729 Lafayette Dr. | Madison, WI 53705-4827
 (608) 231-2731 |  pata4729@gmail.com

No Refunds after April 5, 2014. A 25% handling fee will be retained on all cancellations.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

SERIES X - COURSE 3

April 14-15, 2015

First Baptist Church
518 N. Franklin Ave
Madison, WI 53705-3699
(608) 233-1800



SPONSORED BY:
WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB
FEDERATION
www.wisconsinclub.org

Sylvia Lowell, WGCF President
3435 State Rd 78
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572-1341
(608) 437-8764
slowell844@gmail.com

This Course is Open to the Public

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL
SERIES X - COURSE 3**

Class times subject to change due
To instructors schedules

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 8:25 a.m.Registration
8:25 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.Announcements
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Susanne Payne
* Landscape Design for Maintenance
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.Jared Vincent
* Landscape Design Accessories
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.Break
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.Jared Vincent
* Parks, Playgrounds and Conservation Areas
11:45am Lunch (Reservation Required)
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Doug Hadley
* Design on the Land-Regional Expression
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. TBA
* Herbaceous Materials in the Landscape

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 8:25 a.m.Registration
8:25 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.Announcements
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Catherine Dammann
* Development of Landscape Architecture from
1840-1940
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Caitlin Blue
* Introduction to Urban Design
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.Break
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.Aaron Williams
* Graphics Interpretation
11:45amLunch (Reservation Required)
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Paul Skidmore
* Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Design
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. TBA
Role of Native Plants in Landscape Design
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Exam Review
4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. Exam (optional)

*Examination to be given on these topics
Plus *The National Gardener* Article

INSTRUCTORS

Doug Hadley, Landscape Architect
Instructor University of Wisconsin
Catherine Dammann, landscape Architect
Instructor University of Wisconsin
Susanne Payne, Landscape Architect
Ken Saiki Designs
Jared Vincent, Landscape Architect
Ziegler Design Associates
Caitlin Blue, Landscape Architect
SSA Design Group
Aaron Williams, Landscape Architect
SSA Design Group
Paul Skidmore, Landscape Architect

REQUIRED READING LIST

Stewards of the Land
Chapters 12, 14, 15, 18, 24, 25, 29, 30, 32
The National Gardener required



Landscape Design School
SERIES X - COURSE 3
**September
23, 24
2015**

**HOW TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR A LANDSCAPE
DESIGN CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION**

Student attendees must:

- 1) belong to a garden club affiliated with a state garden club in NGC.
- 2) have a passing grade of 70% on all exams in the 4 courses.
- 3) complete all 4 courses between 2 to 7 years. Courses may be taken in any order or back to back.

FOR OUR NON-MEMBER STUDENTS

- 1) Courses and exams are open to everyone.
- 2) Consultant Certification Cards are issued only to members of NGC.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Certificates of Completion are awarded to non-NGC students attending a full series.

REFRESHER CREDIT

Refresher Credit for Consultant and Master Consultants are 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES

Marion Books, Committee Chair

The Organizational Studies Committee met November 7, 2014, with the following recommendations.

ARTICLE VI

STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

The following Section was voted on and approved at the 86th Annual Convention Business meeting in 2012.

Section 8: The Strategic Planning Committee shall be comprised of the First Vice-president, who shall serve as chairman, and four additional voting members, one of whom shall be a Past President. The President shall serve as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of this Committee.

Section 8: a) One member shall be appointed annually by the President-Elect in the even-numbered year to serve for three years, with the approval of the Board of Directors. Beginning in 2014, the President will appoint two members for a three year term. Beginning in 2014, the President will appoint two members for a three year term.

Recommendations to be voted on by the Membership at Annual Meeting at 88th Convention

Section 8: a) **Delete:** Beginning in 2014, the President will appoint two members for a three year term.

Change to: The President/President Elect shall appoint a new member or members to serve for three years, replacing the retiring member or members, with the approval of the Board of Directors. Appointments to be made annually by the President-elect in the odd-numbered years and by the President in the even-numbered years.

Rationale: The President has already appointed the two members in 2014 to establish a fourth member cycle, so this is no longer relevant.

The Organizational Studies Committee is also proposing changes to the Awards Standing Rules portion of the WGCF Handbook, which will be voted on by the Executive Committee. When these changes are approved, the revised Awards Booklet will be available on the WGCF website.

Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club

invites you to hear

Elizabeth Murray

Author, Artist, Gardener, Photographer, Motivational Speaker

“Living Life In Full Bloom”

Thursday Evening, April 16, 2015

5:30 PM

Lubar Auditorium

Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee

Tickets on sale after March 1, 2015

This inspirational presenter will share ideas to help you embrace life with hope, purpose and imagination. Her own inspiration developed from time spent helping with renovation and restoration of Monet's Giverny Gardens. Giverny garden photos she has taken have travelled with Monet's paintings to nine museums. Her amazing photography and artwork include gardens from Giverny to the Amazon.

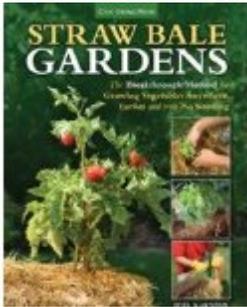
For tickets or further information, contact: Rosheen Styczinski

rosheenstyczinski@hotmail.com 414-530-1080

Book Review by Kay Villa

Straw Bale Gardens & Ground Breaking Food Gardens

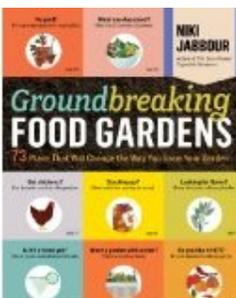
These are two great books to read during the long & quiet winter season. They are chocked full of wonderful and creative ideas to obtain higher yields from your 'potager' and make it easier to physically garden.



Straw Bale Gardens, Joel Karsten, Cool Springs Press, 2013 , Suggested Retail \$19.99

I'd heard family stories about my Norwegian ancestors growing potatoes in bales of straw and after reading this book it leads me to believe that those stories are probably true. This gardening technique makes it easy to grow flowers and vegetables regardless of the type of soil because you won't be growing the plants in the soil; but in bales of straw. If you're getting older and gardening is becoming more physically challenging; or you have a back injury which makes it difficult to work the soil; this might be the perfect technique to allow you to continue to garden.

Raised garden beds are created from bound & twined bales of straw. Be careful to only use straw as hay bales have weed seeds. The straw bales are placed in the configuration of your choosing ~ they can even be placed on balconies and driveways; or stacked to create a multiple tiered garden. The bales are preconditioned and allowed to age for a month before planting. The other advantages are that the bales warm up faster than native soil allowing you to plant earlier extending the growing season; there are no weeds; and you can successfully grow hot weather crops such as peanuts and sweet potatoes. At the end of the gardening season the straw materials are added to the compost bin and recycled. The primary investment is purchasing or obtaining straw bales; but if you live on or near a farm you probably have this inexpensive resource readily available to you. Try this fun and easy gardening technique.



Ground Breaking Food Gardens, Niki Jabbour, Storey Publishing, 2014, Suggested Retail \$19.95

I wish that this book had been published prior to creation of our 'potager' raised garden bed as we would have incorporated many of these ideas in to our little plot of land. I highly recommend reading

it prior to development of any new garden or if you are in the process of redesigning your garden. The book includes layouts and plant selections for 73 different styles of gardens. Some examples include gardens for chickens, brewers, cocktails, bee keepers, balconies, edible hedges, recycled pallets, culinary courtyards, founding fathers, and there are many, many more. The author includes detailed garden plans and beautiful illustrations; but there are no photographs of the actual gardens. The book is easy to read and to interpret the layouts; and it also identifies the plant cultivars for each specific garden.



NOMADS stands for Nomads on a mission, active in divine service. We are a non-profit mission organization composed mainly of 1000 older adults who own RV's. We agree to work for a designated time (one - three weeks) on a project in exchange for a place to park our rigs with electric and water. If you own an RV (motorhome, fifth wheel or pull behind trailer) and you are willing to perform some physical service for others, this might be a wonderful opportunity for you. We "avoid deep snow" by working projects in the southern 1/2 of the U.S. in the Winter. There are projects year round. For more information check out Nomadsumc.org on the web or e-mail me with questions: laurenceg@centurytel.net
Joan and Larry Goebel



DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

- 4 Awards Meeting, Rothschild
- 5 WGCF Executive Meeting, Rothschild
- 13-15 Garden Expo, Madison

APRIL

- 10-11 Environmental Studies School, Mequon
Series V, Course 3
- 14-15 Landscape Design School, Madison
Series X, Course 3

MAY

- 12-15 NGC Convention, Louisville, KY
- 28-30 WGCF Convention, Superior

JUNE

- 11 WGCF Board Meeting, Madison

SEPTEMBER

- 18-19 Environmental Studies School, Mequon
Series V, Course 4
- 23-24 Landscape Design School, Madison
Series X, Course 4

OCTOBER

- 3-5 Central Region Convention, Cedar Rapids, IA

DIRECTORY UPDATES / CORRECTIONS:

Correct email addresses:

- Ella Cross ecross@uwsuper.edu
- Carol Larson Deocarollarson@gmail.com
- Pat Ritchie peritchie4866@gmail.com
- Karen Witucke Karen@witucke.net

Contact information for Beth Chapman, Landscape Design Consultant:

Beth Chapman, St. John's Home, South Tower,
1800 N. Prospect Ave., # 20A; Milwaukee, WI
Zip code: 53202-3075; Phone: 414-239-7894

Telephone number for State Treasurer Lynnette Rakun:
920-946-1673

Ivy League Garden Club of Sheboygan meets the 4th
Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Attention WGCF Scholarship Contributors

It appears that ten WGCF Scholarships will be offered to students for 2015. In addition, we have been offered an additional newly-named scholarship for 2016.

All contribution checks should be written to WGCF Scholarship Fund and mailed to: Community Foundation For the Fox Valley Region, Inc., 4455 West Lawrence Street, Appleton, WI 54914 **(Note: No Box Number)**



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 Street, Appleton, WI 54914

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

CLUB NAME _____ DISTRICT _____

DONOR NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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Deadline for Spring Issue: March 1, Submissions Welcome

Due to the variability of bulk non-profit postage delivery, WGCF and *Wisconsin Gardens* takes no responsibility of late delivery of event announcements. Please plan accordingly.

Coming in the Spring 2015 Issue: Arbor Day, Awards, Birds, Butterflies, The National Gardener, National Garden Week, Flower Show Schedules, Flower Show Schools, Habitat for Humanity, Program, Operation Wildflower, Scholarships, Yearbooks.



Looking out my window I'm thinking about changes that occur in our lives. Through the eyes of a child, it means something very different than what I might think of. In our time of helping at the elementary school, the children have decided to call me by various names, such as "Ms. Carla", "Ms. Watermelon" (since the day I brought melons from a Produce Auction), "Gardening Grandma", and "Ms. Pickles" (I have them convinced that I'm the "Pickle Queen of the County"). When I was talking with the children recently about being called "Ms. Pickles", a kindergartener came up to me and asked, "do you change your name every year?" Such a simple question - she's only known me a short time and has already heard me called by various names. Her question made me think of the changes she has noticed and the changes I have seen in these children's attitude about fruits and vegetables they have helped to grow. When we consider the beginning of a new year, we "olders" might think of resolutions and goals, and what changes will come about in 2015 - quite a different perspective than children might have. We sometimes think of this time as a "fresh start" or "turning over a new leaf". What could happen if we approached each day like this, rather than just those "resolution" days of early January. Or if we had the eyes of a child, seeing the world with all its opportunities to view something awesome and amazing, looking for the chances to grow, learn and have fun. We "olders" can also think about how we can make a difference, looking for the ways that we might change not only our names but what we do and how we affect our communities. So, today as I look out my window, I'm asking "What change do I wish to see in this day?" and "What can I do to affect that change?" As gardeners, let's also pause to reflect on "What changes would we like to see in our own garden clubs?" and "What are we willing to do to make these changes?"

Carla

"Be the change you want to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi

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