

# Wisconsin Gardens

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Spring 2022

## WGCF PRESIDENT'S PROJECT, 2021 – 2023

### INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION FEDERATION FIELDS

In 1973, when cranes were on the brink of extinction, Dr. George Archibald and Dr. Ron Sauey co-founded the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The Sauey family "rented" a portion of their horse farm to the Foundation for \$1 a year. Archibald was director from 1973 to 2000. He currently heads a World Conservation Union commission on crane survival.



Archibald pioneered techniques to rear cranes in captivity, including the use of crane costumes by human handlers. He visited remote areas in Afghanistan, Cuba, India, Russia and Korea to protect watersheds and grasslands and to help increase migratory flight paths.

WGCF donated ten acres to the Foundation in 1984. Member Margret Clark won a contest to name the acreage Federation Fields. In 1984, WGCF President Carolyn Clark dedicated Federation Fields, and we donated seed money.

We continue the history of WGCF and the Crane Foundation with President Laura Skoff's President's Project, the establishment of a prairie plant area on the sloping field beneath the new Overlook Pavilion.

The project involves a cycle of invasive plant species removal, vegetation burns, and soil preparation. There will be one more cycle of invasive species abatement and the field will be seeded this fall.

**Donations to date total \$5,275, over 50% of goal.** Donations welcome through WGCF Treasurer, Mary Jane Hull, [hullmary249@gmail.com](mailto:hullmary249@gmail.com). Please specify President's Project on your check.

In 1994, Dr. Archibald received the WGCF Gold Seal Award. He was scheduled to accept the NGC Award of Excellence at the cancelled 2020 National Convention.

We fortunately have another chance to honor Dr. Archibald at our WGCF Annual Convention April 24–26 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.

The banquet on Monday, April 25, will feature him as our keynote speaker. Registration information is available in the Winter Issue of Wisconsin Gardens and on our website at [wisconsinclub.org](http://wisconsinclub.org).



Jim Vest and Jan Blooming, Editor

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Making the World a Greener Place



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.

**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  
 608-837-2675  
 lkmccm@gmail.com

**Second Vice President**  
**Joe Powelka**  
 5361 Betlach Road  
 Sun Prairie, WI  
 608-206-4238  
 oneplus@chorus.net

**Recording Secretary**  
**Susan Wallace**  
 100 E. Parkland Drive  
 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
 715-416-1217  
 naffer65@gmail.com

**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 Avenue  
 Western Springs, IL 60558-1826

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



# Message from Our President

As members of Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and National Garden Clubs, Inc. we are introduced to numerous visions of encouragement in the sphere of gardening. We are directed, educated, quizzed and guided by fellow members and leaders. But are we truly **inspired**?



Recently I attended the PBS Garden Expo in Madison where our Madison District members exhibited a Standard Flower Show, an information booth providing WGCF literature and educational tools as well a floral design “competition”. This expo welcomes over 10,000 visitors in a three-day period annually and this year WGCF had a front and center presence doubled in size since last year. I have to thank and congratulate all of our members that were involved in this truly **inspirational** exhibit! The colorful horticulture and designs were an incentive to venture out in the world of gardening.

The Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club will once again invite the public to enjoy **Art in Bloom** this April, the Art Museum’s annual spring celebration featuring flower arrangements in the galleries. Local floral designers will interpret artwork in the Museum’s collections. The garden club’s members volunteer their time and knowledge as well as providing monetary support to the Museum for this event. Through the centuries, artists have painted, drawn and sculpted their interpretations of floral beauty. Monet’s Gardens at Giverny have personally **inspired** me as have Van Gogh’s paintings of Irises and Sunflowers. Thank-you to MAMGC members for participating and supporting such an **inspirational** display of beauty!

In the world of Conservation, we have such accomplished leaders from John Muir to Jane Goodall to Aldo Leopold and George Archibald who **inspire** us every day to take care of our natural resources and the earthly inhabitants. Earth Day is April 22nd and the theme this year is “Invest in our Planet”. Join the Arbor Day Foundation on April 29th by celebrating 50 years and the accomplishment of planting over 500 million trees in more than 50 countries.

You **inspire** people with every tree you plant, every garden you grow and every program you share through your club. To have friends and strangers compliment you and ask your advice on suggestions for their gardens shows not just as a form of flattery, but an **inspiration** to them.

Please plan on attending our April 24-26 WGCF Convention at Elkhart Lake and the May 17-20 NGC Convention in Orlando where **inspiration** will be on display.

*Laura*

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow”

Audrey Hepburn

## Advertising Rates

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

# Horticulture

Sue Donohoe, Horticulture Chair

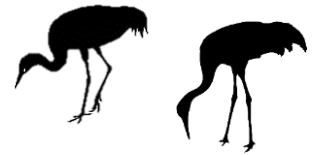
In keeping with our President's Project, the restoration of Federation Fields, I want to highlight one of the native plants most used by Sandhill and Whooping Cranes.

These handsome birds migrate to Wisconsin in the warm weather months and use the freshwater marshes of our beautiful state for breeding. In order to make their large ground nests, the cranes rely on plant material, cattails in particular. We have two native cattail species in Wisconsin. One is easily managed and one is aggressive, so we must learn about both.

*Typha Angustifolia* and *Typha Latifolia* can be found in marshes and wetlands throughout the state. Cranes use whichever one is at the chosen nesting site, and we as caretakers of the land must help to keep the aggressive cattail from overtaking other plant species that share the wetlands.

Both species share basic features:

- They live in zones 3-10.
- Both multiply mostly by rhizomes, but they also produce seeds dispersed by the wind.
- Their root systems help with the prevention of erosion.
- Both grow in sun to part shade in freshwater, twelve to twenty-four inches deep.
- Both are monoecious with male and female parts on the same plant. There is a yellow staminate at the top and a brown cylindrical pistillate at the bottom.



Now for the differences:



*Typha Angustifolia* has narrow, dark green leaves and grows up to 6' tall. The staminate of this species sits 1-2" above the pistillate (see photo). This species is aggressive and should be monitored and removed when possible.

*Typha Angustifolia*



*Typha Latifolia*



*Typha Latifolia* has wide, pale green leaves similar to the iris and can grow up to 10' tall. On this plant the staminate sits directly upon the pistillate (see photo). This species is much preferred and easier to manage.

Fun Fact: Horicon Marsh is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the US.

## *In Memoriam*



*Carla Von Haden*

1948 – 2022

WGCF members were saddened by the passing of Carla Von Haden who died February 3, 2022.

Carla, fondly known as Miss Pickles in the Elroy community, led a passionate, socially conscious and engaged life dedicating her time to numerous organizations throughout her community. After retiring as a high school counselor, she served as Lay Leader and Secretary for her church.

Carla was raised on a dairy farm and was involved with planting and harvesting the vegetable garden which led to her gardening passion and becoming famously known for her dill pickles and tasty jams. She was an avid photographer and a longtime member of the Hill and Dale Garden Club in the Coulee District, where she served as The District Director for multiple terms.

Most recently Carla served as the WGCF Recording Secretary and the Editor of Wisconsin Gardens for the past ten years.

She enriched the lives of all who knew her and truly left this world a better place. Her gracious smile, sense of humor and twinkling blue eyes will long be remembered.

## Awards

Doris Weber, Awards Chair

The work of the WGCF awards Chair includes compiling and submitting applications and documents for National Garden Club, Central Region, and WGCF Awards. The Awards Committee consists of the Chair, Yearbook Chair, and the WGCF District Directors.

The Awards Committee met at the February Executive Board meeting in Wausau to consider and vote on the WGCF Awards. These will be presented at the upcoming WGCF Convention in Elkhart Lake during our luncheons and evening banquets.



The Awards Chair appreciates having all District Directors, Club Presidents and members compile photos, documents and paperwork, and begin work on some awards. When looking for the applications and information, check out the WGCF website at [wisconsinclub.org](http://wisconsinclub.org) and begin the work. Go to Members only. Look for [Awards & Procedures](#).

Many of the awards now include a monetary gift to reward you for your efforts! You can't win if you don't try! Our WGCF clubs do so much wonderful work, and clubs should be recognized for their gardening efforts.



# Gardening Through the Years

A Standard Flower Show Presented by the Madison District Garden Clubs  
Gerianne Holzman, Chair

Spring came early to Madison as the Madison District Garden Clubs' members hosted a Standard Flower Show at the PBS-Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo in February.

Highlighting design and gardening styles of the past centuries, the Flower Show welcomed Expo attendees into the exhibit hall. Tropical foliage plants, last summer's flowering annuals, succulents, planters and woody plants brought "a breath of life" to Garden Expo according to one of the organizers. Floral design types ranged from traditional mass and still life to more advanced hanging spatial and tubular. Botanical arts created a touch of whimsy to the show with wreaths, collages and veggie inspired swags. Education exhibits displayed garden clubs' activities since the early 1900's and community involvement in sharing garden plenty with those in need.



The requirements of a Standard Flower Show are:

- It must be planned and staged by a NGC club, district, council or state.
- Fresh plant material must be emphasized and encouraged throughout the show.
- A show schedule must be written which includes all of the rules of the show.
- Horticulture and design divisions must be included.
- The show must be judged by NGC Accredited Judges.
- The NGC system of awarding must be followed — all exhibits are judged against perfection.

Viewed by almost 11,000 visitors, Gardening Through the Years showcased garden club activity and WGCF members from across the state. Ian Lewitz of PBS-Wisconsin interviewed the Flower Show Chair prior to the event. Here is a link to the interview:  
<https://pbswisconsin.org/article/a-look-at-this-years-garden-landscape-expo-standard-flower-show-a-qa-with-the-madison-districts-garden-clubs/>

New, this year, the district sponsored a presentation loosely based on the TV show "Chopped." Four WGCF members took on the Designer's Challenge to create a floral masterpiece in front of a lively audience. Prior to going on stage, they did not know the style, materials or container of their design. They had to do all this in less than 30 minutes! The designers rose to the challenge and created lovely pieces to enhance the exhibit hall.





# National Garden Week

Doris Weber, National Garden Week Chair

Let's "Leap into Action," to promote National Garden Week, June 5 through June 11.

This is a great week to promote garden clubs with special programs, tours, garden walks, plant sales, or projects that might be of interest to the public. Why not invite them to these events along with all your garden club members participating?

Plants or floral designs could be presented to libraries, town halls, schools, nursing homes, or local stores. Any way you can find to show off your garden club work in your community, just go ahead and do it! Be sure to get publicity planned for one of these special events.

Posters proclaiming National Garden Week are available from member services at NGC or the NGC website. Let's get back to increasing our club's membership again and promoting gardening interests within our communities.



## Dates to Remember

**April 1-2, 2022**

Landscape Design School, Madison, WI

**April 24-26, 2022**

WGCF Convention, Elkhart Lake, WI

**May 17-20, 2022**

NGC Convention, Orlando, FL

**June 9, 2022**

Executive Committee Meeting, Wausau, WI

**June 22-23, 2022**

Multi-Refresher, Door County, WI

**October 13, 2022**

WGCF Executive Committee Meeting, Wausau, WI

**February 16, 2023**

WGCF Executive Committee Meeting, Wausau, WI

**May 2-5, 2023**

NGC Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WVA

**May 18-20, 2023**

WGCF Convention, La Crosse, WI



## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual *Sheboygan Area Garden Walk*

Hosted by Lake Shore  
and Ivy League Garden Clubs  
Featuring 7 Gardens

**Saturday, July 9, 2022**  
**9:00 to 4:00, Rain or Shine**

Tickets may be purchased  
at any of the gardens.

Adults \$20, Students 13 to 18, \$10  
Children free

Strollers allowed, Please NO pets

[www.sheboygangardeners.com](http://www.sheboygangardeners.com)

# St. Croix District Happenings

Debby Walters, St. Croix Director

Doug Tallamy stresses the importance of our backyards in the greater scheme of things, in his books, *Bringing Nature Home* and *Nature's Best Hope*. He states, "Gardeners have become important players in the management of our nation's wildlife."



It is now within the power of individual gardeners to do something that we all dream of doing; to make a difference. In this case, the "difference" will be to the future of biodiversity, to the native plants and animals of North America, and the ecosystems that sustain them." Therefore, St. Croix's theme for the year is "Building Backyard Habitat."

Several events are planned to support our theme and involve others in education and activities.

District members were encouraged to read one of Tallamy's books and participate in a ZOOM book discussion. Non-affiliated garden clubs were invited to join in. Participation was small, but our discussions were good. Some members of the Hudson Home and Garden Club also joined us. There is enthusiasm out there for native plants and creating biodiversity, as well as reaching out to educate and encourage others.



Club member, Bonnie Ringer, is holding one of the Cups of Cheer arrangements that we give to Meals on Wheels for distribution.

Lake Wissota Garden Club and the Chippewa Falls Rod and Gun Club have sponsored a tree and shrub sale for many years. The Botany Belles and Beaus have joined in the sale for several years. They feature native bareroot trees and shrubs for sale to the public at a reasonable cost. Orders are taken during the month of March and people pick up their purchase on April 24th. Both garden clubs also purchase trees for free distribution to the public.

In a separate article in Wisconsin Gardens, you'll find out about an upcoming workshop on July 29th, "Native Plant Gardening for All" to be held at Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls. Whether you're experienced in working with native plants or just a beginner, you'll learn something new.

All the clubs in the district have recently gained new members!

All the district clubs are involved in maintaining local plantings and are looking forward to getting their hands dirty this spring.

We're busy gardening for good as you all are!



# Arbor Day

## Arbor Day to Celebrate 150 Years

Karen Merlau, Arbor Day Chair



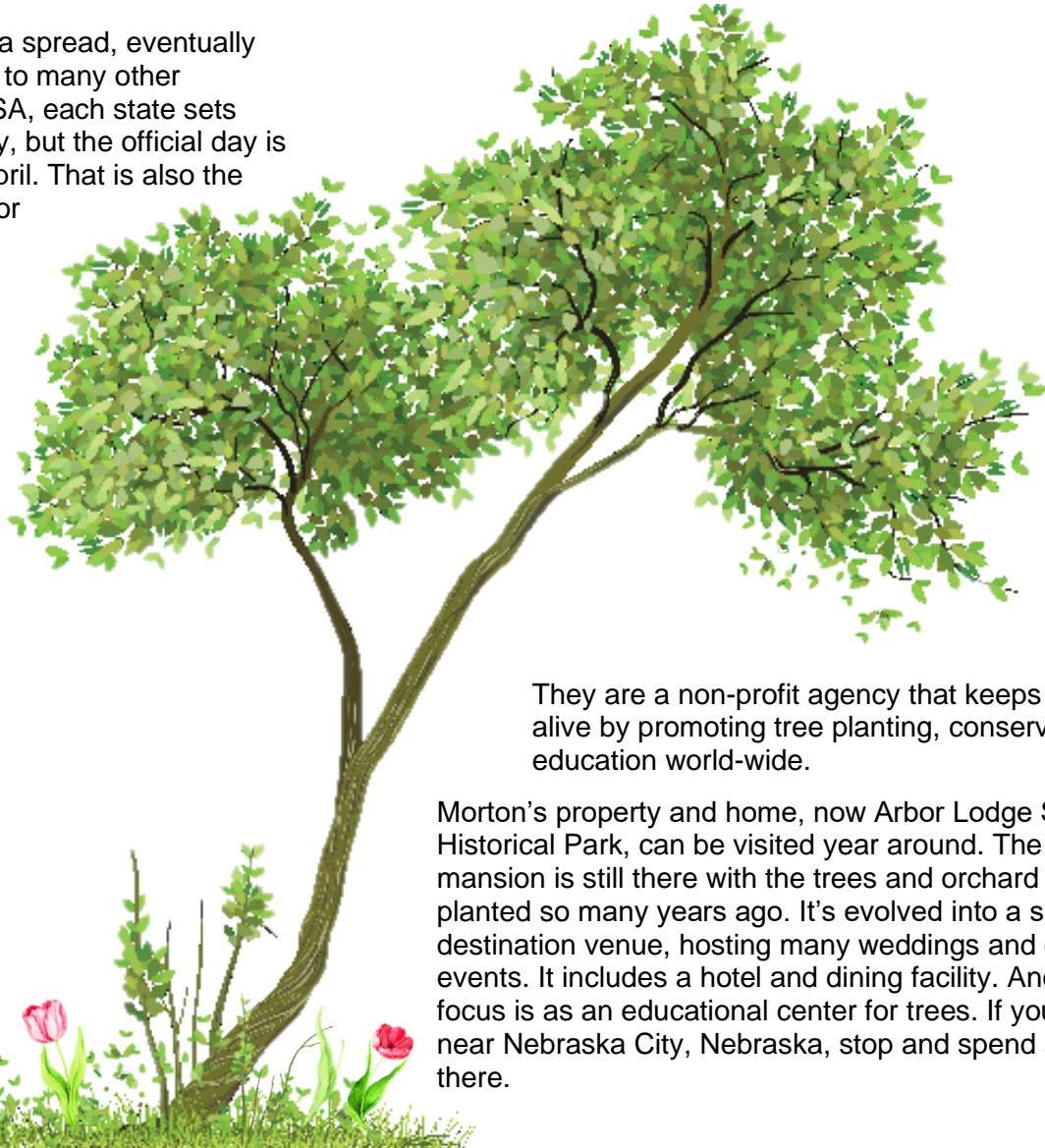
This year we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day.

It first began in Nebraska, the idea of an early settler, J. Sterling Morton. He was a newspaper editor and he owned property and wanted to plant trees and increase the number of trees in Nebraska. Nebraska had few trees at the time.

Eventually his passion moved him to broader action by lobbying the Nebraska legislature to create a holiday for planting trees. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872.

From there, the idea spread, eventually to all 50 states and to many other countries. In the USA, each state sets their own Arbor Day, but the official day is the last Friday in April. That is also the official date for Arbor Day in Wisconsin.

J. Sterling Morton's property and estate eventually was given to the state of Nebraska and became a historical site. The Arbor Day Foundation, which you may be familiar with, manages this site.



They are a non-profit agency that keeps the legacy alive by promoting tree planting, conservation, and education world-wide.

Morton's property and home, now Arbor Lodge State Historical Park, can be visited year around. The elegant mansion is still there with the trees and orchard that Morton planted so many years ago. It's evolved into a special destination venue, hosting many weddings and celebratory events. It includes a hotel and dining facility. Another major focus is as an educational center for trees. If you are ever near Nebraska City, Nebraska, stop and spend some time there.

I'm sure that you've heard of the Morton Arboretum in the Chicago area. Yes, there's a connection to J. Sterling Morton who lobbied to create Arbor Day. Perhaps a topic for another time.

Until then, I hope that you will consider attending an Arbor Day event this year in your community. Arbor Day is Friday April 29th, 2022.





# President's Travels

On March 5, WGCF President Laura Skoff joined dog sledding fans in Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, to observe the ceremonial start of The Last Great Race, the running of the 1049-mile Iditarod. It was also a great opportunity to spend time with Sharron Jordan, the President of the Alaska Garden Club.

Alaska is the largest state by area, but among the smallest in population with 740,000 people. There are three garden clubs totaling 60 members.



Eagle River. They met a couple times for lunch and shared garden club stories, as well as participating in the **Running with the Reindeer**, where they joined other groups of people running with reindeer down the main street.

The Iditarod ceremonial start was canceled last year due to the pandemic. This year, fans attending the 50th running of the race watched as sleds left the starting line two minutes apart.

The official sendoff of the race was the next day in Willow, 70 miles north of Anchorage. The closing of the highway due to a car crash, prevented Laura from attending that this year. Laura was glad to have seen the mushers and dogs at the ceremonial start the day before, in the blizzard and 14 inches of snow.



Puppies top all!

The Iditarod officially started in 1973, but the trail and the use of dog teams as a mode of transportation has a long history. In the 1920s, settlers looking for gold used dog teams in the winter to travel along the Iditarod Trail to the gold fields. It was also used in 1925 to bring 300,000 units of life-saving serum to those afflicted by a diphtheria epidemic in Nome.

Each dog team is made up of twelve to sixteen dogs and the smartest and fastest dogs are the lead dogs, running in the front. Those who can move the team around curves are the swing dogs. The strongest dogs run in the back, and are called the wheel dogs.

The Iditarod mushers have 22 checkpoints, where they stop to rest, and get the health of their dogs checked, which is the main priority. The only mandatory rest time consists of one 24-hour stop and two eight hour stops during the eight to twelve-day race.



Sharron

Laura

Above, Laura Skoff, WGCF President, is with Sharron Jordan, Alaska Garden Club President. This is their photo from registration for the Running of the Reindeer at the Fur Rondy, Anchorage Alaska's Winter Festival, the prelude to the 50th anniversary of the Iditarod.  
 Don't you just love their head gear?  
 \* \* \*  
 On the left, Laura and Sharon are at the Garden of Eagle River, Alaska Garden Club. Can you find the eagle?

Laura had contacted Sharron, mentioning she was making the journey to Anchorage for the Iditarod. It turned out that Sharron lived 10 miles outside of Anchorage, in the suburb of Willow.



Laura made the trip with Brandon, her nephew from California. Here they are with the "Welcome Moose."

# Milwaukee District News

## Elmbrook Garden Club has program.

Elmbrook Garden Club members Dawn Wallace, Nancy Gloe, Judy Newman and Flo Paulson enjoyed a presentation on "Invasives and Herbicides" presented by Nancy and Judy at the club's March 3 meeting in Brookfield.



## MILWAUKEE DISTRICT announces ART IN BLOOM is back

Art In Bloom is back at the Milwaukee Art Museum Thursday, April 7, through Sunday, April 10, and thirty floral designers will have magnificent arrangements on display. The Milwaukee District and the Art Museum Garden Club invite you to explore the galleries to see how local floral artisans have interpreted artworks in the Museum's collection. Treat yourself to the colors and aromas of spring. Enjoy an indoor garden in Windhover Hall, where lush greenery and stunning florals create the perfect backdrop for Milwaukee's kickoff to spring.



Timed entry is required for AIB visitors, and hours are extended this year into the evening. Please check the MAM website, [mam.org/events/bloom](http://mam.org/events/bloom), for hours and to make reservations.

The Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club is the Presenting Sponsor. They will have a membership booth and a flower market for a fund-raising event.

Members of the MAM Garden Club will greet visitors, answer questions, as well as sell bouquets and plants. You will spot them wearing the bright yellow aprons!



Phyllis Scharner and Susan Miller



Barb Mann enjoying Art in Bloom a couple years ago!



Barb DeCoursey





## Birds

### Northern Cardinal

*Cardinalis Cardinalis*

We have all experienced it . . . that flash of red that catches our eye as it lands on the pristine white snow to consume the black oil sunflower seeds, safflower seeds or peanuts we left at the feeder.

The Northern Cardinal is one of the most recognizable songbirds in North America and is the official state bird of seven states. Their native range has expanded from the southeast United States upwards as far as southeast Canada and as far west as the Great Plains and southwest deserts. It is thought that a major aid in their spread north has been the abundance of sunflower seeds available to them at bird feeders. They also consume insects, berries and other vegetable matter.



Northern Cardinals, like many songbirds, are sexually dimorphic. This means male and female differ in external appearance, such as size, weight, color, and marking, as well as behavior. The male cardinals' vivid red feathers come from carotenoid pigments found in a healthy diet of carotenoid-rich fruits and berries. The females feature a more subdued and pale coloration with red tinges on their wings, tails and crest. Both sexes have a prominent feather crest atop their heads and the male has a bold black mask, with the females' more grayish.

They are mid-sized songbirds with a body length of 8-9 inches and are monogamous. However, they often choose a different mate if they are unsuccessful in producing surviving offspring.

Pairs typically breed between March and September and produce 3-4 brown speckled green eggs with an incubation of 11-13 days. They prefer to build nests in grapevines, dogwood, shrub thickets and spruce. Northern Cardinals have been known to eat the spring flowers of forsythia and redbud, but their diet shifts during breeding season, when parents feed the young protein-rich caterpillars. A large stand of perennials, combined with nearby shrubs, will create a valuable food and shelter choice for the flock.



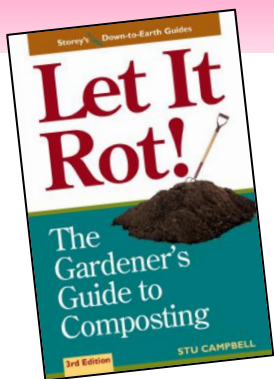
Unlike many other songbird species, both male and female Northern Cardinals are adept singers. Females often sing from the nest communicating their needs to their partners, while males sing frequently during breeding season and continue to sing throughout the year. Their whistling may sound like "what-cheer, cheer, cheer"; "purty-purty-purty" or "sweet-sweet-sweet-sweet". A metallic "chip" is a common alarm and communication call.

They are called cardinals because they reminded early American settlers of the red robes that Catholic cardinals wear. They say seeing the vibrant red bird is an uplifting, happy sign that those we have lost will live forever, so long as we keep their memory alive in our hearts.

You have to believe in happiness, or happiness never comes.

Ah, that's the reason a bird can sing!  
On his darkest day he believes in spring.

Douglass Malloch



## Books

Judy Mittelstadt  
Books Chair

### Let It Rot!

**The Gardener's Guide to Composting by**  
Stu Campbell

It's spring time! Garden clean up time! To compost or not to compost is the decision that must be made by all gardeners. It is the natural process that began with the first plants on earth and has been going on ever since.

Our garbage dumps and landfills are filling up with organic materials that can be composted, so composting in our backyards is a great idea!

*Let It Rot* will tell you how, using materials we are all familiar with, grass clippings, manure, blood meal, bonemeal, and plant trimmings or refuse. Any type of container can be used, a box made from wire, pallets, or a garbage can or plastic bin with drainage holes. The end product is beneficial to our gardens, and your efforts will help us all.

We have some cool evenings and this book has lots of information. Reading this book, perhaps while sipping a cup of tea, will fill your mind with thoughts of composting!



## COMPOST, WHAT IS IT? WHY USE IT?

Compost is a mixture used to fertilize and improve the soil. It is commonly prepared by decomposing plant and food waste and recycling organic materials. The resulting mixture is rich in plant nutrients and beneficial organisms, such as worms and fungal mycelium. Compost improves soil fertility, provides nutrients to crops, acts as a soil conditioner, increases the acid contents of the soil, and introduces beneficial colonies of microbes that suppress pathogens in the soil. It also reduces expenses for commercial fertilizers for recreational gardeners and commercial farmers alike. Compost can also be used for land and stream reclamation, wetland construction, and landfill cover.

At the simplest level, composting requires gathering a mix of greens and browns. Greens are materials that are rich in nitrogen such as leaves, grass, and food scraps. Browns are more woody materials that are rich in carbon, such as stalks, paper, and wood chips. Materials are wetted to break them down into humus, a process that goes on for months.

Decomposition is aided by shredding the plant matter, adding water, and by regularly turning the mixture. Fungi, earthworms, and other detritivores further break up the organic material. Aerobic bacteria and fungi manage the chemical process by converting the inputs into heat, carbon dioxide and ammonium. Composting is an important part of waste management since food and other compostable materials make up about 20% of waste in landfills and these materials take longer to biodegrade in the landfill. Composting offers an environmentally superior alternative to using organic material for landfill because composting reduces methane production, and provides economic and environmental co-benefits.



# Operation Wild Flower

## ON THE HIKE WITHOUT YELLOW BRICKS, OH MY!

Diane Powelka  
Operation Wildflower Chair

We're off to see the Ephemerals on this bright and sunny day. Take a hike with us and be amazed at all the beautiful plants that are popping out of the ground on this cool spring day. The trees have not yet pushed out their leaves but the earth has warmed up to allow the ephemerals to emerge out of dormancy. Spring ephemerals grow in the shade or the edge of the tree line, but in the spring they arrive before the tree canopy has leafed out. A hike is a great way to look for them before all the flowers quietly disappear while some retain their leaves.

Do not worry about tigers, lions, and bears in the forest. Make loud noises, bring your cow bell, and take pictures to share with your garden club members. A good walk is a just what we all need. Come on, it is time to take advantage of that hike!

If you have no idea where to find spring ephemerals, ask your club or district for help. Generations Park in the Township of Sun Prairie has trails with spring ephemerals, I'd be happy to show you where to look! Give me a call, 608-837-6308, or e-mail at powelka@chorus.net.



Dicentra Canadensis  
Squirrel Corn



Arisaema triphyllum  
Jack-in-the-Pulpit

### WHAT IS A SPRING EPHEMERAL?

A spring ephemeral is a native perennial plant that dies back to their underground parts after a short growth and reproduction phase each spring when excess light is available. You might see the following:



Podophyllum Peltatum  
Mayapple



Cardamine Concatenate  
Toothwort



Uvularia Grandiflorum  
Greatmerrv Bells



Claytonia  
Species Spring Beauty

Claytonia, species Spring Beauty  
Dicentra canadensis, Squirrel Corn  
Dicentra cucullaria, Dutchman's Breeches



Trillium erectum,  
Red Trillium/Wake Robin

Dicentra eximia, Turkey Corn  
Dodecatheon, species Shootingstar  
Erigenia bulbosa, Harbinger of Spring  
Erythronium americanum, Yellow Trout Lily  
Hepatica nobilis, Hepatica  
Houstonia caerulea, Azure Bluet  
Jeffersonia diphylla, Twinleaf  
Sanguinaria canadensis, Bloodroot  
Thalictrum thalictroides, Rue Anemone  
Trillium erectum, Red Trillium/Wake Robin

**Other spring native plants to find on walks in the forest, parks, or your yard may include:**



Geranium Maculatum  
Wild Geranium



Polygonatum Biflorum  
Solomon's Seal

- Trillium luteum, Yellow Trillium/Wake Robin
- Trillium grandiflorum, Common/White Trillium
- Trillium ovatum, Western Trillium/Wake Robin
- Actaea pachypoda, White Baneberry, Doll's Eyes
- Arisaema triphyllum, Jack-in-the-Pulpit
- Asarum canadense, Wild Ginger
- Caulophyllum thalictroides, Blue Cohosh
- Cardamine concatenate, Toothwort
- Geranium maculatum, Wild Geranium
- Podophyllum peltatum, Mayapple
- Polemonium reptans, Jacob's Ladder
- Hepatica acutiloba, Sharplobed Hepatica,
- Polygonatum biflorum, Solomon's Seal
- Uvularia grandiflorum, Greatmerry Bells

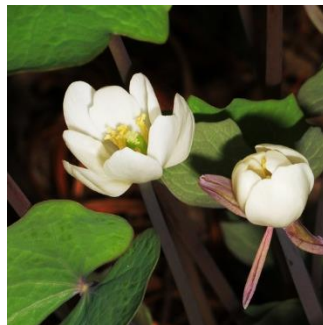
This time of year, it is easy to distinguish the invasive shrubs, trees, and plants that do not belong in the woods. The invasive plants leaf out early and are taking up the sunlight, nutrients, and floor space that the ephemerals need. If possible, mark the shrubs and trees with tape and obtain permission take out those plants. Some of the plants that leaf out early are honeysuckle shrubs, garlic mustard and buckthorn trees.

When you cut down honeysuckle and buckthorn be sure to get all the plant and apply stump stopper to the places you cut. You could use old carpet to smother the plants but be sure to anchor the carpet down with large rocks. It will take a year or two before you should remove the carpet. Do not allow garlic mustard to go to seed. Cut the garlic mustard and bag the cuttings. Put them in the garbage, not the compost!



Caulophyllum Thalictroides  
Blue Cohosh

Jeffersonia Diphylla  
Twinleaf



Hepatica acutiloba  
Sharplobed Hepatica



Dodecatheon  
Species Shootingstar

You might like some of the plants that look like they belong but look them up to make sure they are not invasive. Dames Rocket looks like a nice plant but if left in place, it will spread. Plant Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricate) in the place of Dames Rocket. The phlox would be wonderful addition in your shade garden. Phlox has 5 petals and dames rocket has 4 petals.

No poppies are listed here as they are only in the books for July. We won't be falling asleep on our spring hike, but there is Dorothy's field of poppies to cross next time.

Let me know what plants you see on your outing, powelka@chorus.net.

# Native Plant Workshop – Gardening for All

Chippewa Falls – Irvine Park

Friday, July 29, 2022

St. Croix District is excited to invite WGCF members and the public to a practical workshop about incorporating natives into our gardens and landscapes. This one-day event will be held in Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls and will provide:

- Practical tips on plant selection and designing with natives
- Propagation methods
- Natives for sun, shade and rain gardens
- Demonstration on various soil preparation methods
- Native garden tours
- Native plant giveaway



Attendees will tour the 200+ native varieties in Irvine Park Wildflower Sanctuary established and maintained by Lake Wissota Garden Club, plus visit two local gardens that have incorporated natives into their design. People will leave with practical knowledge and some free native plants.

Our keynote speaker is Carmen Simonet, a Twin Cities landscape architect who specializes in sustainable landscape design utilizing native plants.

Mark your calendar for Friday, July 29, 2022 and take part in this native plant learning workshop in the Northwoods. Registration materials and further details coming soon.

Carmen Simonet

St. Croix District clubs: Botany Belles & Beaus; Lake Wissota & Willow River  
Debby Walters, St. Croix District Director

## Welcome Our New WGCF Recording Secretary, And the New Editor of Wisconsin Gardens!

Laura Skoff, WGCF President

Please join me in welcoming Susan Wallace as our newly appointed Recording Secretary and Jan Blooming as the new Editor of Wisconsin Gardens.

Susan is currently a member of the Lake Wissota Garden Club in the St. Croix District where she serves as the District Recording Secretary. Prior to moving to the Chippewa Falls area a couple of years ago, Susan was the Indianwood District Director. Her charming demeanor and great leadership skills will prove to be a great addition to our Executive Committee.



Susan Wallace

Jan is a member of the Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club where she previously held the position of Membership Chairman and Editor of their Newsletter for several years. She is a Docent at the museum and taught art for forty-one years, the last twenty in MPS. In addition, she taught teachers for twenty-five summers for McPherson College. Jan's creativity and way with words will bring a fresh vision to our newsletter and Board of Directors.



Jan Blooming

# Endangered Species Day

May 20, 2022

Cheryl Lausten, Endangered Species Chair



## Brief History:

In 1966, concern for the health status of the Bald Eagle, our national bird, motivated Congress to pass the Endangered Species Preservation Act. This Act stated that the U. S. Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Defense must protect listed species and their habitats. After a number of amendments, this evolved into the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which President Richard Nixon signed into law on December 28, 1973. In 2006, the third Friday in May was designated as Endangered Species Day, a worldwide day of education and conservation.

The Act's main purpose is to identify all endangered species, domestic and foreign, birds, mammals, insects, fish, reptiles, crustaceans, flowers, grasses, and trees, and to protect them and their habitat.

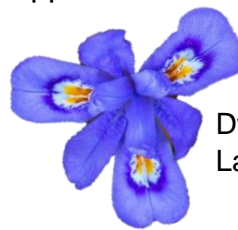
Under the ESA, these species can be listed as either endangered or threatened, according to an assessment of the risk of their extinction. Once a species is listed, the act requires the Federal Government to provide a recovery plan, financial assistance, and tools to aid its conservation and protect its habitat. The goal is to restore the species to a healthy population and remove them from the list. Saving one species can save countless others because each plant or animal is part of a larger ecosystem where preserving any one could create a ripple effect.



Hines Emerald  
Dragonfly



Rusty Patched  
Bumblebee



Dwarf  
Lake Iris



Fassett's  
Locoweed

## In Wisconsin:

As of July 2016, Wisconsin had 11 endangered and 10 threatened species listed under the ESA. Of these, 14 were animal species and 7 were plant species. Among the species listed is the Hines' Emerald Dragonfly, the Piping Plover (bird), Poweshiek skipperling (butterfly), the Rusty Patched Bumblebee, Dwarf Lake Iris, and Fassett's Locoweed. More information specifically on Wisconsin endangered species can be found on the Wisconsin DNR website.



## What can you do to help?

Be a good steward of the land every day, not just Endangered Species Day. Educate yourself and share your knowledge, support local conservation organizations, and help in the rebuilding of restorative habitats.



# Sheboygan District News

Karen Merlau, District Director

Our clubs were busy in the fall and winter months, despite the continuing challenges presented by the pandemic.

The Ivy League Garden Club continued their tradition of using their floral design skills to create Holiday table decorations. They met on December 14, 2021, at Caan's Floral in Sheboygan.

Besides each member creating an arrangement to take home, three extra arrangements were created that were given to local Senior Centers. Well done, Ivy League! The arrangements you donated brightened tables for many over the Holidays.

Ivy League members in the greenhouse.



A Holiday arrangement ready to go.



A "helper", pleased with the results.

The Lake Shore Garden Club helped to raise funds for Maywood Environmental Park in Sheboygan by conducting their very popular Holiday Wreathmaking class, which was open to the public. This event was held at Maywood on November 20, 2021. Maywood staff and volunteers gathered suitable fresh evergreen material from within the park grounds just before the event. Lake Shore members donated other wreathmaking necessities such as boxwood and holly cuttings, decorative bows, and dried natural materials.

Instruction was provided by Doris Weber with other members from Lake Shore working one-to-one with the class participants.

This event has become an annual tradition that many anticipate, helping them get into the Holiday spirit.



Wreathmaking at Maywood Environmental Park





# Plant America Month

## National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Laura Skoff, WGCF President

NGC President Mary Warshauer has proclaimed April 2022 as PLANT AMERICA MONTH. The following is an excerpt from Mary's message:

PLANT AMERICA began in 2017 under the leadership of former NGC President Nancy Hargroves with the focus on community centered projects and efforts. By dedicating our work to preserving ecosystems and engaging in civic beautification, we can make a positive impact on our environment.

PLANT AMERICA embodies NGC's commitment to raise awareness about environmental issues such as land restoration, water conservation, environmental science and sustainability, and access to green space such as public parks. It also promotes the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

PLANT AMERICA seeks to inspire members to reach beyond the confines of their backyard beds and apply their ardor for gardening to broader community initiatives.

Mary Warshauer's entire Proclamation may be found on the NGC website at the Plant America – Play Outdoors Header and clicking on Learn about Plant America.

## NGC's 3 R's Membership Series

The recent series offered on the second Monday of the last several months, has offered ideas to strengthen the membership and grow our clubs in our organization. The entire program can be found on the website ([gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)) under Member Resources; Library; 3 R's Video/Presentation. A brief synopsis follows.

### Recruit

1. Attract – Refresh policies, be attractive, increase flexibility
2. Attitude – Invite the public, be open, introduce our organization
3. Advertise – Use social media, community calendars, brochures, speak at local events

### Retain

1. Mentorship
2. Workshops
3. Educate
4. Engage
5. Fun

### Revitalize

1. Evolve/adapt
2. Communicate
3. Lead together
4. Reach out



Don't judge each day  
by the harvest you reap,  
but by the seeds you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson



# Door County Days

## A MULTIPLE REFRESHER

Gerianne Holzman, Chair

ALL WGCF members are welcome to attend our WGCF sponsored Door County Days on June 22 and 23, 2022, at The Ridges Sanctuary in Bailey's Harbor. The pandemic kept us home and it is now time to go "up north" and Play Outdoors.

You do not need to be a gardening or environmental consultant to attend. Just come and enjoy great presentations including Gardening in Door County, History of The Ridges Sanctuary, Wild Mushrooms, Newport Beach Dark Skies, Jens Jensen and Native Orchid Propagation.

Attendees will also enjoy guided tours of The Ridges Sanctuary and The Clearing Folk School – both rare opportunities. Enjoy all of this for only \$100 including a traditional Door County Fish Boil! Seating is limited, so sign up today!

See the event brochure that follows in Wisconsin Gardens.



## THE RIDGES

The Ridges Sanctuary is a 1,600-acre nature preserve and land trust in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin. It is listed as a National Natural Landmark, Important Bird Area and Wisconsin State Natural Area. It was founded in 1937 and was the first land trust in the state.

The building also hosts workshops, education classes, and user groups. Most importantly, as its founders envisioned, it is the place for people of all ages to gather in support of land protection, education, outreach and research.



## RANGE LIGHTS

No visit to The Ridges would be complete without experiencing the iconic Baileys Harbor Range Lights. Built in 1869, the Upper Range Light and its companion Lower Range Light are the only lighthouses of this design that are still on range and function as navigational aids. These modest but enduring structures played a critical role in the history of Baileys Harbor and in the founding of The Ridges.

At the time they were built, the Range Lights were considered an effective way to keep ships off the treacherous reefs and shallows at the entrance to Baileys Harbor.

Today The Ridges Sanctuary staff and volunteers have become the new keepers of the lights, dedicated to the preservation of the structures and their cultural history.



**Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Club/District \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees**

\$100 Registration (includes continental breakfast and lunch both days plus Wednesday dinner) Select your meals:

- 6/22 Lunch - check one:
  - Classic Caesar Wrap
  - Smoked Turkey on Brioche
  - Vegetable Wrap
- 6/22 Dinner - check one:
  - Door County Fish Boil
  - BBQ Ribs
  - Baked Chicken
  - Vegetarian Option
- 6/23 Lunch - check one:
  - Classic Caesar Wrap
  - Smoked Turkey on Brioche
  - Vegetable Wrap

\$5 Refresher Fee - Environmental School

\$5 Refresher Fee - Gardening School

\$10 Late fee if postmarked after 6/1/2022

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail**

Please make check payable to **WGCF Tri-Council** and send with registration form to:  
 Gretchen Vest, Refresher Registrar  
 704 Spring Drive, West Bend, WI 53095

**Registration Deadline: 6/8/2022**  
**NO REFUNDS AFTER 6/1/2022**

**Refresher Credits**

At this Multiple Refresher, you may refresh in Environmental School or Gardening School. If you are a master in both schools, you may refresh in both.

**Contact Information**

**Multiple Refresher Chair:** Gerianne Holzman  
 geriannewgcf@gmail.com 608-345-6907

**Multiple Refresher Registrar:** Gretchen Vest  
 gretchenvest@aol.com 262-338-6645

**WGCF President:** Laura Skoff  
 lauraskoff@gmail.com 414-614-6489

**Lodging**

There are many lodging opportunities in Door County, a very popular tourist destination. We recommend making your hotel reservation as soon as possible to assure availability.

Websites to explore lodging options:

- ◆ <https://www.doorcounty.com/stay/>
- ◆ [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g1012027-Door\\_County\\_Wisconsin-Hotels.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g1012027-Door_County_Wisconsin-Hotels.html)
- ◆ <http://www.doorcountynavigator.com/places-to-stay-in-door-county>

Cover image (Cypripedium parviflorum) by Gerianne Holzman

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation  
 Presents

*Door County Days*

Multiple Refresher  
 Environmental & Gardening Schools



June 22 and 23, 2022  
 The Ridges Sanctuary  
 8166 Hwy 57  
 Bailey's Harbor, WI

## Door County Days - Multiple Refresher

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

8:00-8:30	Registration/Introductions
8:30-9:30	Gardening in The Garden Door Demonstration Garden - Kunz
9:30-10:30	History of The Ridges Sanctuary - Krouse
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:45	Wild Mushrooms - Lukes
11:45-12:30	Lunch
12:30-2:30	The Ridges Sanctuary Tour
2:30-6:00	Free Time
6:00	Dinner - Pelletier's

Thursday, June 23, 2022

7:45-8:15	Registration/Introductions
8:15-9:15	Newport State Park Dark Skies Program - Bartoli
9:15-10:15	Native Plant Gardening - Newbern
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:30	Jens Jensen, Conservationist and The Clearing Restoration Gardening - Aten
11:30-12:30	Native Orchid Propagation at The Ridges - Program Manager
12:30-1:15	Lunch
1:15-1:45	Travel to The Clearing (own car)
2:00-4:00	The Clearing Folk School Tour
4:00	Adjourn

## Presenters

**Nancy Aten** holds a Master's degree in landscape architecture and electrical engineering.

Nancy is the consulting landscape architect at The Clearing and owner of Landscapes of Place, LLC, landscape design company.

**Beth Bartoli** graduated from UW-Parkside and holds a Master Naturalist certification. Beth is the DNR Natural Resources Educator at Newport State Park.

**Katie Krouse** has a degree in biological science as well as a Master's degree in Marine Conservation. Katie is the Director of Operations at The Ridges Sanctuary.

**Sue Kunz** is a retired registered nurse and a Door County Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV). Sue teaches a variety of courses including winter interest in the garden and MGV classes.

**Charlotte Lukes** is a retired dental hygienist who assisted her husband, Roy, in writing *Tales of the Wild, a Year with Nature*. Charlotte writes and presents extensively on the Door County natural world, particularly mushroom foraging.

**Karen Newbern** holds a degree in Natural Resource Management. Karen is the nursery manager at Door Landscape and Nursery and was a naturalist at The Ridges Sanctuary.

**Orchid Propagation Manager** The Ridges Sanctuary is internationally recognized for its incredible plant diversity. It is most notably known and sought after for the orchid populations. Over 28 orchid species bloom among the 1,600 acres of the sanctuary

## Tours

**The Ridges Sanctuary** In 1937, The Ridges Sanctuary became Wisconsin's first land trust. For over 80 years, it has been an integral part of the rich, natural setting of the Baileys Harbor community and the Door County Peninsula. Founded to preserve the original 30 acre parcel, The Ridges has grown to ensure the protection of the most biologically diverse ecosystem in Wisconsin.

**The Clearing** In 1937, Jens Jensen, a Danish-born landscape architect, founded The Clearing Folk School. Many consider him to be the most important American landscape architect and The Clearing his "great work." Today, The Clearing offers classes in natural sciences, fine arts, skilled crafts and humanities. These programs fulfill Jensen's dream of a year-round folk school in a natural setting.

## Notes

- The guided tours are fully accessible walks. You are welcome to bring water on tours. Please dress appropriately for the hikes; they will occur rain or shine.
- Please bring your own coffee mug and water bottle to keep our event sustainable.
- Casual attire is appropriate for all events.
- Free time allows for Door County exploration, activity list is available at the event.
- Come to enjoy and learn, no exams.

## Environmental or Gardening Consultant

To become a Consultant, you must:

- belong to garden club affiliated with a state garden club within National Garden Club, Inc.
- complete all four courses, pass exams and submit a consultant accreditation application.
- subscribe to *The National Gardener*.

# Ruth St. John West

1898 - 1990

If you have never been there, add the gardens of West of the Lake to your list of outings for this summer. The property is just north of Manitowoc on the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. The gardens are free to the public and open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Buses are welcome, just contact the facility through their website ahead of your planned visit.

West of the Lake is supported by the Ruth St. John West and John Dunham West Foundation, which has assets upwards of \$86,000,000. Their financials show charitable grants of \$3,065,374 in 2020. Awards are made to tax exempt organizations in Manitowoc and surrounding counties that would benefit Manitowoc residents . . . just something to keep in mind.



Back to the gardens, and how they came to be. Ruth West arrived in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, in 1932, as the wife of John Dunham West. They met, because following the death of her husband, she was renting rooms to Cornell University students, and mechanical engineering student, John West, was looking for accommodations. They fell in love, married, and moved back to John's hometown, where his father owned the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company, and Wisconsin became her new home.

In 1934 they purchased 6½ acres of barren land, a street car right of way, at 915 Memorial Drive, north of the city. They built a small, modern, concrete and steel house, labeled the "Shoobox Estate" by locals. Ruth and a gardener spaded the land, removing the crab grass and thistles by hand, establishing lawn and planting 70 Colorado spruce trees.

Ruth's lifelong interest in gardening began when she started laying out the ten distinct gardens at West of the Lake. One of her first purchases was 200 tulip bulbs. Fifteen years later the number was upwards of 30,000. As tulips faded, geraniums and begonias took their place. Now perennials and roses dominate.

She joined several garden clubs and enjoyed teaching Girl Scouts about planning gardens. By 1942, she attended the state garden club convention in Milwaukee, and designed their yearbook. On the cover was a photo of her own lilacs.

In 1944, Ruth became the director of the Sheboygan District, and at the 19th Annual WGCF Convention, 1946, Ruth was elected President of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. Her theme was "Work for Your Federation and You Will Love It," and the biggest task of her administration was to bring the Constitution and By-Laws up to date.

In 1944, Ruth became the director of the Sheboygan District, and at the 19th Annual WGCF Convention, 1946, Ruth was elected President of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. Her theme was "Work for Your Federation and You Will Love It," and the biggest task of her administration was to bring the Constitution and By-Laws up to date.

Ruth supported Judging Schools, now Flower Show Schools, and other educational programs.



In fact, in autumn of 1947, she covered the deficit of Wisconsin's first Judging School where fifty-nine attendees took the examination.

In 1948, she funded and edited the first issues of Wisconsin Gardens. She stressed work with Junior gardeners and proposed the Conservation Scholarship Program which would assist a student majoring in conservation, horticulture or plant research.

In 1967, Ruth West welcomed the President of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Lucile Mauntel, to her Annual Tulip Tea for over 1000 people. Featured were over 16,000 tulips. Mrs. Mauntel was in Wisconsin for the 38th Annual Convention at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. That year, Ruth's husband, John, surprised her with a donation of \$1000.00 to the Manitowoc Public Library in her honor. The money was designated to establish the "Ruth West Library of Beauty".



Ruth chaired the Still Life and Table Setting Shows at the Rahr-West Museum, in Manitowoc. The first show was in 1974, and became an annual event. To her, table settings were an art form.

Ruth West gave a substantial monetary gift to establish the Ruth and John West Endowment Fund in support of WGCF Flower Show Schools, Landscape Design Schools and Gardening Study Courses in 1989. Ruth West enjoyed sharing her beautiful gardens with friends. What a joy it was for them to listen to her identify thousands of different plants! She treasured her trial gardens as well, and kept detailed records contributing always to her knowledge.

John West passed away in 1989 and Ruth a year later. They supported charities and their foundation continues to do so. Their philanthropy was done quietly and without publicity. A significant contribution was their support of the Rahr-West Art Museum, both for construction and the purchase of works of art for the permanent collection.

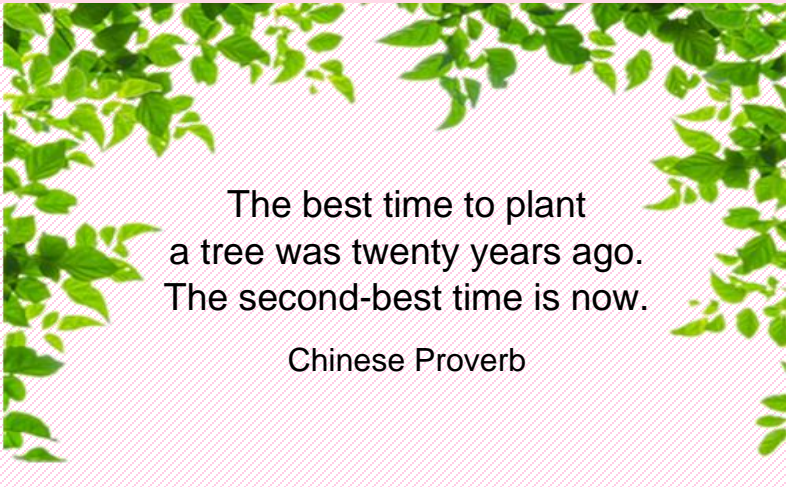
The recently completed mural of Ruth West in downtown Manitowoc is a colorful tribute to this Wisconsin woman. She was a community member and arts advocate who spent her life making sure art was not a thing of privilege, but accessible to the community.

Her collection is the heart of the Rahr-West Art Museum, which has free entry and educational opportunities. Her gardens live on as her legacy to the community.

Judy Newman  
WGCF Historian

Jan Blooming  
Editor





The best time to plant  
a tree was twenty years ago.  
The second-best time is now.

Chinese Proverb

## WisconsinGardenClub.org

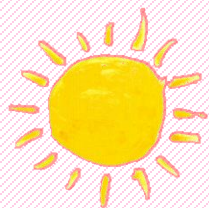
### DEADLINE AND PUBLICATION DATES

Winter Issue, December 10 – January 1

Spring Issue, March 10 - April 1

Summer Issue, June 10 – July 1

Fall Issue, September 10 – October 1



### The SUN is SHINING SOMEWHERE

Even here in Wisconsin, the sun is shining and spring is right around the corner. Snow is gone and sprigs of fresh green grass dot the landscape. These are glorious days.

Tulips planted last fall are coming up and life continues. I've always said I wish to enjoy family and friends as long as I am permitted. Nothing is more important. I want no regrets, and as a retired art teacher, I look forward to fun editing this lovely publication, as did Carla.

In just a couple weeks, our convention will be held at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, hosted by the Sheboygan Garden Club District. I'd like to meet many of you there, and maybe I'll run into old friends, as my home town of Kohler is a few miles away. When I was a youngster, I spent many a sunny day playing in the waters of Elkhart Lake. Being back will be an adventure!

*Jan*



## Coming in Summer 2022

Convention Report, Judges Council, Landscape Design Consultants, Landscape Schools, Memorials and Tributes, Books, Horticulture, Membership Promotion, Web Page



## Address Corrections

Please send to Membership Secretary

Susan Johansen

2249 122nd Street, New Richmond, WI 54017

715-781-6825

h23j19@gmail.co

Editor, Jan Blooming  
bloomingj@hotmail.com  
5331 S. Cambridge Lane  
Greenfield, WI 53221  
414-541-8834



Assistant Editor, Linda Reuss  
lreuss@att.net

Copy Editor, Karen Thaker

Circulation, Susan Johansen  
H23j19@gmail.com  
2249 122<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New Richmond, WI 54017

Contributors: Laura Skoff, Debbie Walters, Susan Johansen, Jim Vest, Karen Merlau, Cheryl Lausten, Doris Weber, Diane Powelka, Judy Mittelstadt, Gerianne Holzman, Judy Newman, Sue Donohue, and Jan Blooming

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