



# Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

## Thanksgiving

We're thankful for our heritage  
We never want to lose  
And for a nation where we are free  
To worship as we choose

We're thankful for equality  
in spite of race or creed  
and for the great abundance of  
the things we daily need

We're thankful for the open door  
that leads to greater things  
We lift our hearts to God in joy;  
His praises do we sing.

For wooded hills and fruited plains  
and friends along the way,  
we give our thanks to God above  
on this Thanksgiving Day

## Go Natural!

Now that your fall clean up is complete, bulbs are planted, garden tools cleaned and stored, it is time to think about decorating for the holidays. It is always fun to think or visualize a 'theme' if you will, before starting a project. A very basic theme would be 'nature'. There are so many items that one can use to decorate for the Christmas holiday. There is a plethora of natural items: pine cones, birch branches/logs, acorns, berries, holly, twigs, seeds, grapevines, and dried

flower heads just to name a few.

Some ideas of how to use them ...

**Pine cones:** hang them on your tree as an ornament, include them in a potpourri, arrange them in a basket with red berries and fresh greens, use them as a bow for gift wrapping.

**Birch branches or logs:** make a teepee with branches and decorate them with pine boughs, ribbon and place a Christmas scene in the center either for indoor or outdoor dis-

play. Include logs in an outdoor container of mixed greens, twigs, cones, and berries, make candles of different heights, or place them in a bucket by the fireplace.

**Grapevines:** use as a base for wreaths, garland for tree, or weave it into a swag. *(you will need to soak the vines to make them more pliable to work with)*

**Twigs:** spray paint or leave natural and include in containers of greens, or include in tree decoration.

Have fun!

# Monthly Programs

## November 2017

'Onions' Barb Piechocki  
Youth Club—Algoma  
7:00 p.m.

## December 2017

**Christmas Party**  
Port O'Call—Kewaunee  
6:30 p.m.—Cocktails  
7:00 p.m.—Dinner

## January 2018

## February 2018

'Beans' Warren Hingst

## Youth Club—Algoma

7:00 p.m.

## WPS Garden Expo—Madison February 9—11

## March 2018

Max Martin—'Potatoes'  
Peninsula Research Station  
Public will be invited  
Location to be determined

## June 2018

## July 208

## August 2018

## September 2018

## October 2018

## November 2018

## December 2018

# Year in Review

The programs for 2017 were very interesting. Don Britzl began in January with a very educational program regarding his passion, bluebirds. It was amazing how many bluebird houses he makes and maintains in the county.

**February**, Warren brought us up to speed on vining plants.

**March**: Sue Kryshak brought forth her knowledge of peas. Three main types: garden peas (English), 'snap', and 'snow' peas.

**Interesting fact**: 3/4 cup of peas

contains more protein than a whole egg or a tablespoon of peanut butter.

**April** we saw the very talented Joel Weichelt's fruits of his labor: greenhouse.

**May**: It was 'Sound, Senses, and Serenity' in the garden. Sue Hepp stressed to be aware of your garden sounds and senses. Enjoy the serenity they brings.

**June, July, and August**: Garden tours: Weichelt, Ouradnik, and Goodner respectively.

June and July many were very busy with Farm Technology Days!

**September** meeting canceled

**October**: Tom Zenner raised 'cane' ... that is berries. Who knew there were so many: Raspberries (red and black), loganberries, boysenberries, marion berries, dewberries, thimbleberries ...

**November**: Barb Piechocki will peel back an onion, one layer at a time. Or, maybe it will just be a very appealing presentation. I'm tearing up already so I best stop!

# Hops: Herb of the Year 2018!

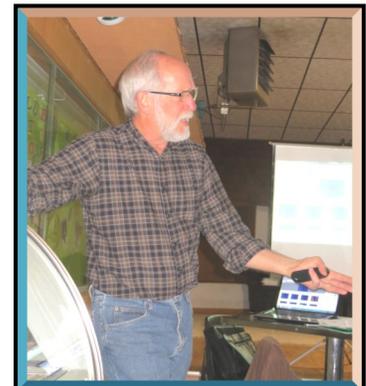
If you like growing herbs outdoors and enjoy vining plants, you should try growing hops. They are easy to grow in any moderate climate.

The whole plant typically is called hops, only the cone-like flower is actually the 'hop'. Hops can grow one to three inches a day during the growing season.

Hmmm ... maybe what Jack was growing actually was hops, not beans!

The most common hops to grow are female and can be used in salads or teas.

Plant rhizomes/roots in the spring after there is no danger of frost in a relatively warm location.





## **Port O' Call**

Kewaunee, WI

**December 5, 2017**

Cocktails: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

### **Menu**

Baked White Fish                      \$20.95

Chicken Alfredo                         \$19.95

Prime Rib Queen Cut                    \$22.95

**Includes:** Salad, red potatoes, and dessert

Price includes tax and tip

Cash bar

## Winter-sowing!

If you have a tendency to go bonkers in January or February, perhaps this is of interest to you. It is something that you can do at your leisure with good results.

If you are like me, I pore over seed catalogs during the dreary winter months. However, this method certainly piqued my interest..

All that is needed are containers, soil, and seeds. The containers are placed outdoors in a place where they will not be disturbed. Leave them uncovered ... snow will cover them, snow will melt; then comes the rain which more than likely get frozen again. When warmer weather does arrive, the seeds start to sprout.

The thought here is if you don't have a lot of space to hold all the containers or a light source to start seeds indoors, this method would be an easy alternative. Too much emphasis has been made on indoor-sowing under lights. It takes up time, space, and white flies take to the air. Damp-off kills your seedlings and spirit.

There is no damp-off with this meth-

od. The chilling temperatures and fresh winds prevent the damp-off.

If you have a lot of seeds to plant, it would be a good choice. Many seeds need to be pre-chilled before sprouting and many plants reseed and germinate outdoors without our intervention. Besides, you can recycle and reuse containers to help protect the environment.

How:

1. Choose container (*plastic milk jug, milk carton, whipped topping tub, etc.*) and cut slits in the bottom for drainage
2. Fill the container with soil to within an inch of the top.
3. Give it a real good drink and let it drain.
4. Once drained well, plant seeds and pat down.
5. Cover the seeds with soil according to package directions.
6. If planting tiny seeds, just sprinkle over soil and pat down. Cover according to package direction.

7. Label what seeds are in the container... on the bottom so the sun and elements don't destroy it. Use freezer tape, duct tape or any tape that works well after being frozen. Use a permanent marking pen to write the variety.
8. You can put a lid on top of your container; however, be sure to make slits in the top. You essentially are making a mini-greenhouse.
9. Germination: not all your flats will germinate. It is no different if you have containers indoors. The seeds will know when it is safe to come up; it is part of their genetics.
10. Check the moisture level. when there is an above-freezing day, open the lid and give the seedlings a drink if needed.
11. As the seedlings grow, make the slits larger.
12. You can transplant directly to your garden as the plants are already hardened off!

## Forcing Bulbs (*tips*)

### On Stones:

Use a large glass vase to make it easier to see how far to fill with water.

Use pea gravel, river rock, crushed brick, glass chips, or marbles. They all make good 'beds' to anchor the bulbs.

Set bulbs into the rock with a bit of a push, then add a few stones around each to keep them from tipping.

### In Potting Mix:

Indoor planting of bulbs is easier than planting outside in the ground. Just need enough potting mix to cover the bulb. Water only when the soil surface is dry.

After the blooms are finished, dead-head them and let the foliage grow. Plant the whole cluster of bulbs outside when it warms enough to work the ground.

Or, just quit watering after the leaves have yellowed. When the foliage is dried, shake off the soil, store the bulbs in a cool, dry spot; then in the fall, plant them outside.

### Alcohol Tip:

If your bulbs have a tendency to become leggy and tip, this will straighten them out!

When leaves are 1 to 2 inches tall, replace plain water in the vase with a 1:8 alcohol-to-water solution. This will stunt the growth just enough to keep the plants compact and sturdy. Use the same solution ratio if you need to add liquid to the vase. Vodka, whiskey or rum all work well, but don't overindulge! Too much alcohol in the mixture can ill the plants. They will be hung over ... the vase, that is!



## **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Kewaunee County Garden Club to support the horticulture efforts of the people and communities of the county with volunteer work, education, and example.

## **Membership Information**

Single Membership ..... \$10.00

Couple Membership ..... \$15.00

### **Send Membership Dues to:**

Ann Brunner  
2420 Lakeshore Road  
Kewaunee, WI 54216