

January—February 2023

Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

Goodbye 2022

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A mild winter with very little snow,
brought forth a very wet spring
to make all the flowers grow,
where perching birds were there to sing!

But then came summer 2022
with above average temps, day and night.
Survival of veggies and flowers was blue,
however, human intervention saved the plight.

The days were long and extremely hot
watering, a must, morning or night,
became routine for every gardeners plot,
no vacations, or oh, watch out for blight!

Fall was not as colorful in 2022,
fallen leaves did not inspire.
Thankfully, the veggie harvest was true;
It made up for years we did not admire.

Winter came early and was milder
but, Christmas 2022 was actually white!
Some of the days, could they get any wilder?
End of year is such a delight!

Programs and Events

Tuesday, January 24—'Seed Starting' with Warren Hingst
Algoma Youth Club at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 26—Winter Seed Sowing Demonstration
with Karen Kidd
Door County Seed Library
Kress Pavilion, Egg Harbor
7845 Church Street

Free seeds and drawing for a winter seed sowing kit

Saturday, February 11—Garden Expo in Madison \$60.00/Person

Tuesday, February 28—'Transplanting' with Barb Smith

Tuesday, March 28—KC Garden Club Meeting

Tuesday, April 18- 'Pollinators' presented by HCE at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 29—Bird City Algoma Celebration at Youth Club 9:00—
2:00 p.m.

Master Gardener Continuing Education

Thursday, January 26—'Growing Epic Tomatoes in Your Garden' with Craig Lehoullier
Registration is required for this online session

Craig's gardening obsession started in 1981 and is always evolving! His love of heirloom tomatoes began with his joining the Seed Savers Exchange, an organization for which he continues to serve as adviser for tomatoes. He is responsible for naming and popularizing many well-known tomatoes, such as Cherokee Purple, Lillian's Yellow Heirloom, and Lucky Cross.

He is responsible for creating 145 (*and counting*) new compact growing varieties for space-challenged gardeners.

Monday, February 27—'Cacti and Succulents: Lessons from Nature' with Dan Mahr
Registration is required for this online session

Dan has a strong interest in horticulture and was on the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America for over 25 years and served as its president. He is an Honorary Fellow of that organization and was director of its Field Trips Program for 20 years.

Garden Expo 2023

Join garden club members on a bus trip to Madison for the Garden Expo on Saturday, February 11. Tickets (\$60.00/person), snacks, and refreshments will be provided.

Saturday Schedule:

Many interesting seminars on Saturday morning including:

1. Create a Family Legacy: Saving Seeds in your Backyard Garden with Michael Washburn
2. Garden Talk with WPR's Larry Meiller
3. Bringing the Tropics to the Midwest in the Thai Garden at Olbrich Botanical Gardens with Dan Schuknecht.
4. Magnificent Monarchs with Gae Bergmann
5. Attracting Eastern Bluebirds and Cavity Nesters to Your Yard with Patrick Ready.
6. Maple Syrup from one Tree—You Can! with Dan Tyler
7. Hydrangeas, Demystified with Zannah Crowe
8. Salvias—Hidden Treasures for your Upper-Midwestern Pollinator Garden with Michael and Kathi Rock
9. Container Gardening with Lisa Johnson
10. Benefits and Uses of Worm Castings with John Schlesner
11. Create a Wildlife Café with Dan Unruh
12. Pre-vegetated Blankets: Providing Erosion Control While Preserving the Integrity, Stability, and Beauty of the Native Plant Community with Robert Livingston.

Afternoon Sessions:

1. Edible Landscaping: Adding Gourmet Mushrooms to your Garden with Lindsey Bender
2. The Other Annuals with Paul Drobot
3. The 'Art' in Garden Design with Sheila Glaske
4. Companion Planting: Magic, Myth, or Science with Susan Obry
5. Tips and Tricks for Aspiring Herbies with Erin Presley
6. Terrific Tomatoes—The Joy of Growing Heirloom with Kirsten Almo
7. Growing Citrus Trees in Wisconsin with Frank and Taylor Lazar
8. Common Landscape Mistakes (and How to Avoid Them) with Sean Pratt
9. Donuts or Volcanoes: The Basics of Mulching with Susan Obry
10. Mushroom Growing 101 with Phoebe Krawczyk
11. Seed Saving for the Novice with Doreen Hamburg

Gnoming!



Birth Flowers—January

Birth flowers have been around for many generations and won't be going away anytime soon! They symbolize not only birthdays, but marriages, anniversaries, as well as death. There are different ways to gift other than a bouquet or a floral arrangement. The flowers/petals can be woven into a necklace, cards, and even tiles for the kitchen or bath.

Some months have two birth flowers possibly because one flower isn't available at the time. As an example, January has the carnation as well as the snowdrop. The carnation is native to the Mediterranean area which was imported to the US in the 1850s. More than 50 varieties have surfaced since then.

Carnation is often referred to as 'flower of the gods'. It was once used to treat fevers in Europe. In the Elizabethan era it was used to spice wine and ale as a substitute for the more expensive clove. An essential oil can be extracted from the flower and used for aromatherapy and perfumes. It is traditionally prescribed in European herbal medicine to treat coronary and nervous disorders.

The **Snowdrop's** genus name, *Galanthus*, is derived from the Greek words *gala* (milk) and *anthos* (flower), referencing the flower's pure white appearance. Snowdrops are used to express both sympathy or celebration. Amongst pagans, the snowdrop is associated with the beginning of spring, as it is thought that the arrival of the first blooming flower signifies the end of winter.

It was traditionally known to grow in graveyards. It is one of the first to poke through the snow in late winter and signifies hope and beauty. They are best planted in threes or fours near walks, pathways, or in raised beds.

Birth Flowers—February

February birth flowers are the violet and primrose. Not many flowers bloom in February; however, the wild violets show off their purple-blue petals and heart-shaped leaves in the coldest months. Primroses also bloom in wintertime.

The **violet** is native to Europe and Asia. There are more than 400 species of violets in the genus. The violet has been thought to symbolize modesty, faithfulness, everlasting love, innocence, and remembrance.

In the Victorian age, a gift of violets was a declaration to always be true. To this day, it still serves as a reminder of loyalty, thoughtfulness, and dependability. Yellow violets symbolizes high worth, white for innocence and purity, purple represents truth and loyalty, and blue is for faithfulness.

Primrose: With European origins, the primrose is part of the *Primula* genus, which contains more than 500 species. It is one of the first blooming flowers in spring. The ancient Celts were thought to believe that large patches of primrose flowers were a gateway to the fairy realm. It was once believed that if you ate a primrose, you would then see a fairy.

In their native Europe, primrose have been long associated for its medicinal and culinary uses. In folk medicine, it was used to treat headaches, cramps, spasms, rheumatism, and gout.

Primroses are toxic to dogs, cats, and horses, but can be eaten by humans. The leaves and flowers can be eaten cooked or raw, or used as an herb or garnish. Primroses can also be used to make wine and syrup.

Garden Kit Containers

It is not too early to start gathering containers for the plant sale 'garden kits'. Some of you have already given me some ... thank you. A good place to start is in your garden shed or storage. What items are you not using? If you shop at Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul, or Dollar Stores, they are great for finding treasures! I do have plenty of baskets!

Some ideas:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Unique Garden Signs | 7. Old garden tools |
| 2. Sand Pails | 8. Boxes with tops (<i>small to medium size</i>) |
| 3. Toy Trucks (<i>open bed</i>) | 9. Kitchen Tools (<i>upright grater, juicer, etc.</i>) |
| 4. Kites | 10. Stuffed Animals (<i>small to medium</i>) |
| 5. Old shoes or boots | 11. Cobbler Aprons |
| 6. Sun Bonnets or Straw Hats | 12. Gallon Milk Jugs |

Plant Sale Labels

It is time to be thinking about the 2023 KCGC Plant Sale in May. So that we have a consistent look for our containers at the Plant Sale, please supply the following information to suehepp8@gmail.com ... (*let Sue know how many labels of each plant is needed*)

1. Flower or Vegetable Name
2. Scientific Name
3. Color (*if applicable*)
4. Light Requirements: (*sun, sun-shade, shade, etc.*)
5. Flowers: annual or perennial
6. Bloom Time: (*spring, summer, or fall*)
7. Height/Width
8. Photo (*if you have one*)



Black-eyed Susan (*rudbeckia*)

Plant in full sun. Heat and drought tolerant.

Deadhead to keep plant tidy and encourage more blooms.



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KC Garden Club

President: Tom Zenner

V. President: Cheryl Eberle

Treasurer: Ann Brunner

Secretary: Sue Hepp

Marketing Committee:

Barb Smith, Tom Zenner,
Cheryl Eberle, Mary Novak,
Nancy Lamack, and Joel
Weichelt

Website: www.kcgardenclub.org



The Optimist's Creed

Promise Yourself in 2023 ...

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny-side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.