

Kewaunee County Garden Club

Calendar of Events

- Tuesday, September 27
Garden Club Meeting Monarch Butterflies
Ann Shebesta
Senior Center,
Kewaunee
7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 5
Barn Quilt Painting
Ag Heritage Farm
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 24
Garden Club Meeting Cruciferous Vegetables
Tom Zenner
Algoma Dug Out
7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 22
Garden Club Meeting Bat Houses
Barb Smith
7:00 p.m.
TBA

Featured Articles	
KCGC Meeting Info	2
Cover Crops	2
Volunteer Hours	2
Fairy Garden	3
Frost/Fall Garden	3
Bookworm Garden Tour	4
Fall Cleanup	4
Christopher Farm and Gardens Tour	5
FTD Greenscapers Info	6
Ag Heritage Days	7

Put Life Back Into the Soil

For many decades, soil science focused on the physical and chemical properties of the earth beneath our feet. Researchers explored the importance of key plant nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and iron. They observed how factors like soil texture and pH affect plant growth. Because of this important early work, today's farmers and gardeners have access to reliable tests and data to help them decide which plants to grow and which amendments to use to correct deficiencies.

In recent years, however, researchers and growers alike have turned their attention to the robust and interconnected web of life that inhabits healthy soil. The more we learn about the organisms that live in this hidden ecosystem, the more we understand the profound positive impact that biological activity has on soil's physical structure and plant health.

Luckily, it's easy for home gardeners to support the diverse community of soil life that helps plants thrive. If you are ready to stop treating

your soil like dirt and start growing healthier plants, here are some easy tips to help you succeed.

Step back and give it some air

About 50% of typical garden soil is pore space, a series of tiny interconnected pathways, which may be occupied by water or air.

To keep soil pores open, avoid overworking the soil, and make it a rule to stay off the soil when it is sticky.

Feed the soil the way nature does.

Simply add organic debris to the soil surface and let the 'underground herd' break it down. As it does, it will improve the soil's texture and make nutrients available to the plants.

Avoid over-fertilizing

Adding bagged fertilizer to the soil, the amount should be adequate for plant growth but not excessive.. Adding once-living organic materials to soil supplies nutrients to the entire biotic ecosystem including the garden plants.

Till as little as possible

If you need to till, don't



overdo it, and be sure to top the soil with an organic mulch to help reestablish the soil ecosystem.

Take stock of soil texture

Soil likely contains a combination of stone fragments, sand, silt, and clay. The mix of these determines the texture. The addition of organic matter can help improve the function of almost any soil.

Keep soil 'crumbly'

Soil particles are structured into crumbs, also called aggregates, of varying sizes.

Plants grown in well-aggregated soil are more resilient to erosion, drought, and attacks by pest organisms.

Grow lots of plants

Living plant roots are the foundation of the soil ecosystem, so bare soil is not healthy soil.

Growing a mix of plant species together, you invite a diverse array of soil organisms to feed on the smorgasbord of organic materials found in and around the plant roots.

Kewaunee County Garden Club Meetings

Date: Tuesday, September 27

Place: Senior Center, Kewaunee

Program: **Monarch Butterflies**/Ann Shebesta

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, October 24

Place: Algoma Dug Out

Program: **Cruciferous Vegetables**/Tom Zenner

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Use Cover Crops like a pro ...

Cover crops have many advantages. They can prevent erosion by covering and holding otherwise bare soil, provide habitat or nectar for beneficial insects, and add organic matter back to the soil. The roots of a cover crop open up the soil, allowing the plants that follow to root deeper for nutrients and water.

Cover crops also help with weeds, taking up space that weeds could otherwise occupy. Some cover, such as rye, even have allelopathic effects, which means they secrete chemicals that inhibit seed germination. This can be a great way to reduce weed pressure, but you should not follow an allelopathic cover with a direct-seeded crop. Only do transplants after a cover crop of rye.

Master Gardener Volunteer Hours

It is that time of year for Master Gardeners to submit their volunteer hours.

Hours are due October 1 in the UW-Extension office, Kewaunee.

The Master Gardener Timesheet is on the Kewaunee UW-Extension website.

Being A Master Gardener is about becoming a VOLUNTEER with the University of Wisconsin-Extension to help educate the public about gardening and natural resources.

It is not knowing everything about gardening. It is about learning to ask the right questions and knowing how to look up information from appropriate resources. Being a Master Gardener is about helping deliver meaningful community programs to improve the well-being of individuals and communities, to protect natural resources, and to help keep fresh fruits and vegetables on the table. It is about working in tandem with UW-Extension staff and other volunteers to make a difference in the places we live, learn, and work.

Grow A Halloween Fairy Garden

Bring the fun trend of fairy gardening to your fall decorating with a scene created in an artificial carvable pumpkin. Pin a sturdy paper plate (*approximately 6 5/8" diameter*) to the front of the pumpkin, just below the stem. Slit the paper plate around the edges to allow it to lie flat. Trace around the plate with a pencil, and then cut out the circle with a pumpkin-carving knife.

Build a platform inside the pumpkin by hot gluing disposable plastic food containers to the floor of the pumpkin. Build it to the level of the bottom of the opening and tilted so the platform slopes forward slightly. Hot glue moss to the back of a larger paper plate (*approximately 8 5/8" diameter*). Curve the plate slightly to insert it into the pumpkin opening and glue to the platform.

Hot glue moss around the pumpkin opening, inside the opening, and around the stem, allowing some to cascade down the pumpkin sides. Attach a resin Halloween figure, a welcome sign, a black cat, and pumpkins with hot glue.



Fairy Garden

Frost and the Fall Garden

It's **September**, students are back in school, the sun is lower in the sky, the nights grow nippy. There's a crispness to the air, and if you look carefully, you will catch the tinges of color. Ordinary folk watch Wisconsin Badger/Packer football; gardeners go on frost watch!

A quick guide to frost hardiness

Frost Sensitive

Tomatoes
Cucumbers
Hot and Sweet peppers
Eggplant
Beans
Basil
Nasturtiums
Melons
Summer Squash Sunflowers

Somewhat Frost Hardy

Lettuce
Arugula
Chard
Escarole
Endive
Cabbage
Nicotiana

Very Frost Hardy

Leeks Carrots
Scallions Pumpkins
Chives Sage
Brussel Sprouts
Broccoli
Kale
Parsley
Beets
Winter Squash

Bookworm Gardens

Bookworm Gardens

Sheboygan, WI, is divided into six areas called Gateways that are organized by themes. Some of the areas visited on August 17:

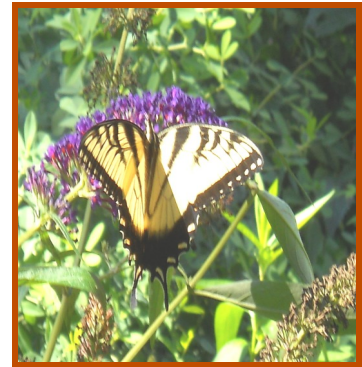
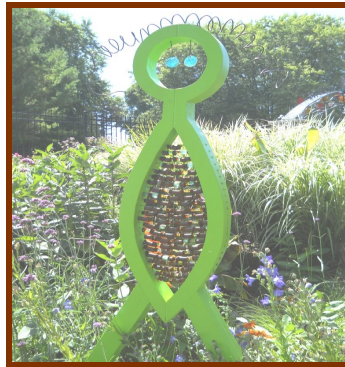
Woodlands
Memory Gardens
Farm Gardens
Animal Gardens
Pond and Wetlands

The gardens are open to the public May 1—October 31. They welcome adult, school and children's groups.

Truly a 'must see'!

www.bookwormgardens.org/

'Bringing books to life one garden at a time'



-Photos by Barb Smith

Fall Cleanup

Fall is a great time to mulch your perennial gardens and shrub beds. Make your dollars go further by using fall leaves to mulch. Put the bagger on your mower and mow over the leaves. Spread the shredded leaves over the soil surface around the plants. Be careful not to bury the crowns of plants.

Apply a 2-3 inch layer of mulch around the base of shrubs. Pull it back several inches from the shrub stems. Burying the crown of the plant increases the risk of insect and disease problems.

In many ways, tasks to undertake in your yard in the fall are even more important than all that work that is done in spring. Helping the landscape recuperate from summer's stress and strengthening it for the next one can only be accomplished now. Here are critical chores for fall:

- Water evergreens at least an inch a week until the ground freezes, if it does not rain sufficiently.
- Control weeds in the lawn, planting beds, and problem areas, as well as invasive plant species.
- Fertilize the lawn and core aerate, if it is thin or the

ground is lumpy.

- Reorganize and regain control of perennial flower plantings by digging out crowded clumps. Divide large clumps and plant where needed or give them to friends or neighbors. Cut out, remove, and destroy dying leaves and stems of anything that showed signs of disease this year.
- In the vegetable garden, till in organic matter just until large chunks of soil break open. Winter and water will finish the job, as it freezes and thaws, making it ready for early planting.
- When bed cleanup is complete, work the compost pile thoroughly sifting out the finished stuff and returning what is not.

Christopher Farm and Gardens Tour—August 17

A privately owned **not open to the public**, 400 acre farm and botanical garden, Sheboygan, WI

www.christopherfarmandgarden.org/

Some of the various areas visited:

- The Green House
- Heritage Garden
- Hosta Haven
- Fruit Orchard
- Astilbe Path
- Bear Path
- Children's Education Farm
- Cut Flower Garden
- Asian Water Garden
- Rose Garden
- Peony Garden
- Kitchen Garden
- Natural Prairie Garden



-Photos by Barb Smith



Farm Technology Days—July 2017

Website: fd2017@yahoo.com

Greenscapers Committee Happenings

The Co-chairs, Jan Tess, Barb Smith, and Sue Hepp have been meeting regularly to organize the Greenscapers role in the Farm Technology Days event. The Greenscapers committee met September 13 for each committee and sub-committee member to have the opportunity to give a report on what they are planning in their area. It was also a time to ask questions and bring forth any concerns.

Quantity of flowers, ornamental grasses, vegetables, or decorative items plus mulch, and wood chips need to be made known to the co-chairs within the next couple of months. To get the best pricing, orders need to be placed by the end of 2016.

These are a few suggestions for non-committee members who would love to help or support this event. Supply the following:

Seed packets

Plugs (4 or 6 pack)

Transplants

Hostas

Daylilies

Black-eyed Susan's

Cannas

Herbs

Succulents

other perennials and annuals

Volunteers are needed to help plant 200 pots as well as placing them on the grounds for the event. If you are available and are willing to help, you are requested to fill out a 'Volunteer Form' for liability purposes. You will receive a brightly colored T-shirt to wear during Farm Technology Days.

Barn Quilt Squares

If you like to paint or just want something to do, come to Ag Heritage Farm for a painting party. This will take place in a heated barn on the property Wednesday, October 5 from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Depending on how many get done the first day, we may need more days to finish all the squares. The 4x4 squares will be ready for you to basically 'paint by number'. Bring a painting friend to help with this fun project!

Items that the committee is looking to borrow:

Watering trough

Milk cans

Milk strainer

Hollowed out logs

Milk pails

Ornamental gates

Old golf clubs (2)

Golf tees

Saw

Post hole digger

Wagon

Old wash tub

Weather vane

Tires

Corn planter

Fishing pole

Wagon wheel

Rake/hoe

Antiques (NO small ones)

Old farm equipment

Butter churn

Pitch fork

Old fence posts

Logs (*lumber*)

Any item that is used for products produced in Kewaunee County.





Ag Heritage Days September 23-25, 2016

Volunteers are needed to work 2-hour shifts for the three day event. If you can help, please contact Cheryl Eberle at: cme@oldorchardcattle.com (920)737-4712

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:

Donna Hella
N4480 County B
Kewaunee, WI 54216