

Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

Garden Dreamer or Planner?

Have you been dreaming about what your garden will look like in spring, summer, or fall? Perhaps you are one who religiously documents the good, bad, and ugly garden happenings in a journal each season. Whatever your style, it is always a good idea to make some changes to make the garden more beautiful, productive, and easier to maintain. These are some things to consider for the 2025 gardening year ...

1. If you don't have a **water feature** in your garden, introduce a shallow dish of fresh water into your garden space. It doesn't have to be a large scale operation. Water is essential for birds, bees, and all the pollinators especially during dry spells. It will require some cleaning and refilling throughout the season.
2. Go native ... **native wildflowers** are not just beautiful, they play a vital part in the ecosystem, providing bees, butterflies, and other pollinators with food throughout the year. Quick link for native plant listing that you can choose from:
https://kb.jniplants.com/find-plants_pp_filter_category=perennial&pp_filter_native=yes
3. **Select plants that bloom, have berries, or foliage** across all seasons to keep your garden lively and vibrant year-round. It will provide enjoyment for you as well as ensuring that wildlife has access to food and shelter throughout the year.
4. **Ditch peat compost** ... experts say it belongs in boggy peatlands, not in bags of compost. Healthy peat bogs can store carbon for thousands of years; harvesting it causes harmful greenhouse gases that escape into the atmosphere.
5. **Use 'seaweed'** for healthier plants and more resilient crops in your garden. Seaweed contains natural plant growth hormones which are compounds that regulate key plant processes, including cell division. It boosts soil microbial activity, enhances the stress tolerance of plants, and is naturally rich in trace minerals like magnesium, iron, manganese, and zinc. Just add to water per directions and water plants as usual.
6. **Technology:** Elho's New Smart Pebble is an easy-to-use App. It monitors key factors like water levels, light exposure and temperature, offering real-time insights that help keep plants in optimal condition. The App also provides helpful care tips and a plant library.

Program, Events, and Due Date

Tuesday, January 28—'Late Blooming Perennials' w/Warren Hingst, ESI Hub at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 8—Garden Expo, Madison (*see flyer for details*)

Tuesday, February 25—'Invasive Plants' w/Sue Hingst/Barbara Piechocki, ESI Hub at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25—'Growing Bulbs in Water' w/Jean Rankin TBD

Tuesday, April 22—'Climate Change and Gardening' - Joint meeting with HCE at KC Highway Department at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 26—World Migratory Bird Day, Algoma High School

Wednesday, April 30—KCGC Scholarship Applications Due

Tuesday, May 20—'Bugs' w/Barbara Piechocki, ESI Hub 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 24—KCGC Plant Sale at Lakehaven Hall, Kewaunee 9:00 a.m.—Noon

Tuesday, June 24—'History of Photosynthesis' w/Joel Weichelt, 1326 Miller Street, Kewaunee at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 22—Mary Ouradnik Garden Tour, Casco TBD

Tuesday, September 23—'Drying Cherries' w/Randi Tassoul

Looking Ahead ...

To warm, sunny days, digging in the garden soil, planting flowers and veggies, beautifying the landscape, and harvesting the bounty, then sharing the abundance!

To learning new gardening techniques from fellow gardeners.

To new variety of flowers, veggies, and hedges ... 'Last Dance' false indigo, 'Rose Rhinestones' penstemon, 'Twilight Sky' aromatic aster, 'Endless' hellebore, Mini-famous Uno Funtopia Blue calibrachoa, Unicorn Pink cherry tomato, Crown Point holly, and Loves Me, Loves Me Not hybrid tea rose.

To educate kids, beginning gardeners, friends, and family members about gardening updates, tips and tricks learned over the years.

New Feature! **Know Your Fellow Gardeners**

Tom Zenner, KCGC President

KCGC President since January 2016!

Tom and his five siblings grew up in Elroy, WI, a small town located in central Wisconsin. His undergraduate studies were interrupted by the draft. He completed his college courses upon return from the Army and fulfilled all the requirements for becoming a medical doctor. As a retired physician, he spends a great deal of his time gardening.



Tom has been gardening for 50 years, half of them as a Master Gardener. He has always enjoyed gardening simply because you get to grow your own food and then can share it with others. What will you find in his garden? His specialty is heirloom tomatoes. He loves to grow, eat, and share them! His heirloom tomato seeds are shared every year for interested gardeners.

You will also find his absolute favorite flowers in the garden: primroses. Primroses are beautiful and they are native wildflowers. The flowers are fragrant and tolerate hot and dry sites as well as part-shade and moist conditions.

Tom is planning to incorporate some new heirloom tomatoes in his garden this year. He is also toying with the idea of bringing in some raised beds. Raised beds have many benefits: portable, better drainage, easier to maintain physically, tree roots aren't a problem, can extend the growing season, better aeration, less soil compaction, fewer pests and weeds. Plus, they are easy to build inexpensively and can be made according to size needed or wanted!

His advice to beginning gardeners—don't start big. And to those who have been gardening for a while—think outside the box and don't be afraid to try new methods. If you are not happy with what you currently are doing, try something new!

Having A Ball at KC Highway Department

November 26, 2024



Christmas Party at Uptown Tavern Banquet Hall

December 10, 2024



Always a great time and a wonderful learning experience!

Sign up today!

Garden & GREEN LIVING EXPO

 **PBS Wisconsin | 2025**

\$60.00 per person Includes:
Transportation to and from the expo, one admission ticket and refreshments on the bus.

Bus Trip Saturday February 8th

Remit payment to:
Kewaunee County Garden Club
Ann Brunner N2420 Lakeshore Rd, Kewaunee, 54216
Deadline: **Monday February 5th**
Please include your **name, email, phone# and pick-up point.**
You will receive an email confirmation with payment

**Kewaunee County Garden Club**
Helps the Community Bloom

Pick-up Points & Times

For More Info, Contact us at:
<https://www.kcgardenclub.org/contact.html>

Algoma – Nicolet Bank parking lot **5:35 am**
Kewaunee – Middle School, south parking lot **6:00 am**
De Pere - Park and Ride, Hwy G, Main Ave, **6:40 am**

The bus will leave promptly, please be on time so we can meet our arrival schedule.

Cancellations made after Monday February 1st will be refunded minus any expenses incurred.

Saturday Seminar and Demo Schedule on the following pages.

Saturday Schedule

9:30 - 10:30 AM 1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 3

New & Emerging Plant Diseases

Brian Hudelson

Room: Mendota 4

Heirloom Companion Planting for Wisconsin Gardeners

Pamela Reardon

Room: Mendota 6-7

Wonderful Wool: For Your Plants and Your Planet

Karen Mayhew and Elaine Becker

Room: Monona/Wingra

Putting the Kibosh on Extinction - The Power of Birds

Craig Thompson

10:30 - 11:15 AM 45 Minute Stage Demos

Room: Demo Stage A

Healthy Habits for the New Year with Inga Witscher

Inga Witscher

10:30 - 11:30 AM 1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 8

Mysterious Morel Mushrooms

Lindsey Bender

Saturday Schedule *(continued)*

Room: Waubesa/Kegonsa

Growing Blueberries in Urban Garden

Vijaikumar Pandian

10:45 - 11:45 AM1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 3

Maple Syruping – You Can Do It!

Dan Tyler

Room: Mendota 4

Gardening for Pollinators

Zannah Crowe

Room: Mendota 6-7

The Improvisational Garden

Patrick Smith

Room: Monona/Wingra

Purple Martins 2025 – Past, Present, Future & Everywhere in Between

Richard (Dick) Nikolai

11:30 - 12:15 PM45 Minute Stage Demos

Room: Demo Stage A

Enabled and Adaptive Gardening

Pamela Reardon and Holly Bresnahan

11:45 - 12:45 PM1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 1-2

Pruning Deciduous Shrubs

Lisa Johnson and Vijai Pandian

Room: Mendota 5

Enhance Your Outdoor Living Space with Landscape Lighting

Brandon and Dustin Lang

Room: Mendota 8

From the Garden: Herbal Medicine Making

Linda Conroy

Room: Waubesa/Kegonsa

Magnificent Monarchs

Gae Bergmann

12 - 1:00 PM1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 3

Langstroth Versus Layens Bee Hives

Ed Buc

Room: Mendota 4

Why Heirloom Seeds

Andre Paquette

Room: Mendota 6-7

New & Unique Plant Varieties & Top Trial Performers

Allen Pyle

Saturday Schedule *(continued)*

Room: Monona/Wingra

Attracting Eastern Bluebirds & Other Cavity Nesters

Patrick Ready

12:30 - 1:15 PM 45 Minute Stage Demos

Room: Demo Stage A

Floral Designers Challenge

Dawn Mozgawa

1 - 2:00 PM 1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 1-2

Tree Health in the Garden Landscape

Andrea Diss-Torrance

Room: Mendota 5

Guardians of Our Garden Friends

Victoria Salerno and Isaac Zaman

Room: Mendota 8

Common Landscape Mistakes

Sean Pratt

Room: Waubesa/Kegonsa

I Grew It & Foraged It: Making the Most of Your Local Produce

Kirsten Almo

Saturday Schedule *(continued)*

1:15 - 2:15 PM 1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 3

The Driftless Trail: New Hikes, Great Conservation

Barb Barzen

Room: Mendota 4

Growing Staple Crops at Scale for Self-Sufficiency

Scott Johnson

Room: Mendota 6-7

The Art of Food Forest Design

Rachel Belida

Room: Monona/Wingra

Saving Money while Building a Clean Energy Future

Quinn Rowe

1:30 - 2:15 PM 45 Minute Stage Demos

Room: Demo Stage A

A Taste of History

Randi Ramsden and Jane Conway

2:15 - 3:15 PM 1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 5

20 Minutes in the Life or Death of a Tree

Ronald Zillmer

Room: Mendota 8

Apples: Care and Selection
Lisa Johnson and Vijai Pandian

Room: Waubesa/Kegonsa

Next Level Succulents: Finding Unique Succulents That Will Grow For You
Noel Lawrence

2:30 - 3:15 PM 45 Minute Stage Demos

Room: Demo Stage A

Root to Stem: Simple Bodywork for Complex Times

Gina Tai

2:30 - 3:30 PM 1 Hour Seminars

Room: Mendota 3

Know Your Seeds: Saving Seeds & Buying Local

Elena Bird and Bjorn Bergman

Room: Mendota 4

Restorative Foraging

Samuel Thayer

Room: Mendota 6-7

I'm Cutting You Off!

Cora Borgens

Room: Monona/Wingra

Gardening for Hummingbirds

Kathi and Michael Rock

Officers:

President: Tom Zenner

Vice President: Cheryl Eberle

Secretary: Sue Hepp

Treasurer: Ann Brunner



Marketing Committee:

Tom Zenner

Barb Smith

Cheryl Eberle

Nancy Lamack

Joel Weichelt



Happy Valentine's Day!

Looking Back on 2024!

February—Garden Expo at the Alliant Center, Madison

April—Booth at World Migratory Bird Day Celebration, Algoma High School

May—Annual Plant Sale, Lakehaven Grounds, Kewaunee

June—Gary Bieck Garden Tour, Elkhart Lake and Pondsides Gardens, Kiel

June-Dana Farm 'Weed and Feed'

July—Glenn Innish Farm Tour in conjunction with HCE

September—Ag Heritage Days, Luxemburg Fairgrounds

October—Dana Farm Fall Clean-up

December-Annual Christmas Party, Uptown Tavern Banquet Hall, Kewaunee