

March- April 2026

Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter



Awesome EcoSystem

'All God's Creatures Have A Place In The Choir'

Ants, bats, flies, moths, spiders, wasps

Ants-pollinate small flowers located close to the ground as they forage for nectar and other resources. The peony has a special relationship with ants. The ants are attracted to the sweet nectar on the outside of the flower bud, and their activity helps encourage the bud to open for other pollinators.

Bats-can carry massive amounts of pollen on their fur as they visit night-blooming flowers. Flowers that are pollinated by bats are typically pale, fragrant, and bell-shaped. The flowers bloom after sunset, making them easy for bats to locate by sight and smell.

Flies-hoverflies and houseflies are attracted to flowers that smell of decay. The hoverflies are voracious predators of aphids.

Moths-evening primrose and night-blooming jasmine rely on moths for pollination. They have a long proboscis to reach nectar in deep, tubular flowers that bloom after dark. Plant a moon garden with moonflowers, nicotiana, and evening primrose. Their fragrant flowers are irresistible to moths.

Spiders are remarkable creatures who are often thought of negatively. However, they produce silk and webs to capture prey and for reproduction. They are an integral part of the ecosystem as they play an important role in agriculture by controlling pests, curbing pathogen spread, and managing invasive species.

Wasps-they are often feared for their sting; however, many wasp species are vital pollinators. Certain orchid species depend solely on these slender insects for the transfer of their pollen.

Programs and Events

Tuesday, March 24—'Garden Expo Debriefing at ESI Hub, Algoma 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21—Meeting with HCE 'Native Plants' by Mary Otto, Brown County at KC Highway Department at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25-Bird City Algoma World Migratory Bird Day celebration at Algoma High School, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 23—Annual Garden Plant Sale on the Lakehaven grounds in Kewaunee

Tuesday, May 26—Invasive Plants—Barbara Piechocki

Tuesday, June 2—Weeding at Dana Farm at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23—Open

Tuesday, July 28 - Weed and Feed at Dana Farm at 4:00 p.m., Food at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 25—Open

Tuesday, September 22—Open

Tuesday, October 6—Weeding at Dana Farm (*close*)

Tuesday, October 27—Open

Tuesday, November 24—Christmas Crafting?

December—KCGC Christmas Party

Summer Garden & Nursery Tours

Valentine Gardens Tour, Green Bay

Sarah and Mark are educators learning to sustainably farm on their beautiful five-acre homestead in north-east Wisconsin. Over the years, they have been developing farm camps to share their love and learning related to growing and raising food. They sell produce and goods at a driveway farm stand and strive to be good neighbors as well as an important asset to their community.

Nurseries in Green Bay (*TBD*)

In Bloom Greenhouse

Ivy Trails Garden Center

Larry's Bellevue Gardens

Mayflower Greenhouse

Schroeder's Flowers

Stein's Garden & Home



Mary Novak's beautiful Amaryllis



Native Fruiting Shrubs

American Black Currant—A low growing shrub with attractive flowers which are visited by insect pollinators. The berries are nearly black in color containing vitamins and antioxidants for human consumption.

Black Chokeberry-it is native to Minnesota. The shrub produces edible fruit that is used in baking and making jams, jellies, syrup, tea, juice, and wine.

Elderberry-this shrub is not only beautiful, it is very beneficial for wildlife, as the berries attract birds and pollinators. Elderberry is known for its clusters of white flowers in early summer, followed by dark purple berries in late summer.

Gooseberry-is known for its edible fruits and ornamental value. It is also known for providing habitat and cover for various wildlife species, including birds and small animals.

Hazelnut-is a versatile native shrub that provides ecological benefits, edible nuts, and habitat for wildlife.

Highbush Cranberry-it is a deciduous shrub growing in height 8' to 15'. The fruit are a tart, cranberry-like flavor and can be eaten raw or cooked for jellies, sauces, and other preserves.

Serviceberry (*Juneberry*)-grown as large shrubs or small trees, serviceberries provide four seasons of interest—from starry white spring flowers and dark summer berries to fiery autumn foliage and smooth, silver-gray bark in winter.

KCGC Plant Sale 2026



*'One man's
Trash
is
another
man's
Treasure'*



Planning ...

1. **Potato Bags**—if you have extra shopping bags, they can be used for planting potatoes. Consider donating one or two for this project. (30 needed)
2. **Gardening Items to Donate**—Look over your inventory of garden supplies. If you haven't used a tool, décor, or pots in years, perhaps it is time to donate it to the garden club for the plant sale.
 - **Herbs** (rosemary, basil, oregano, thyme, sage)
 - **Flowers** (creeping phlox, primrose, Jacobs Ladder, hellebores)
 - **Shrubs** (old-fashioned lilacs)
 - **Veggies** (asparagus—fresh cut)
 - Tart and tasty **Rhubarb**
4. **Gardening Kits** (*items needed*)
 - Kid Friendly Kits** (old shoes or boots, old cars, trains, trucks, tractors, dolls, toy washing machines, toys, toy musical instruments, beach toys, etc.)
 - Adult Kits** (tennis shoes, boots, garden tools, baking equipment, small cooking pans and utensils, mop heads, watering spout, spice rack, etc.)
5. **Flowers**
 - Annuals
 - Sun and Shade Perennials
 - Native
6. **Vegetables**
7. **Shrubs** (*native*)
8. **Houseplants**
9. **Trees** (*plantings*)



PBS Garden Expo Seminar

‘Honeyberries: A Promising New Berry Crop for the Upper Midwest’—Steffen Mirsky

Honeyberry was coined by Jim Gilbert of ‘One Green Earth Nursery’ in Oregon in the 1990’s.

Honeyberries are native to northern Eurasia and Canada. The name ‘**haskaps**’ is used to indicate varieties that are a type of Japanese Blue Honeysuckle, and the term ‘**honeyberry**’ is the commercial name used for Russian and Kuril varieties of Blue Honeysuckle. Plants of Russian origin are more susceptible to summer injury in warm regions. In areas with intense summer heat, the Japanese varieties are better suited for planting.

Haskaps (*Canada*) are in the honeysuckle family and are a deciduous, cold hardy shrub that can live up to 30 years. (*They are not invasive...yet!*) They can grow to be 6’ high and wide. Bushes do not sucker or have thorns. Leaf shape varies dramatically among varieties and range from 1” to 4” long. Small, cream to yellow colored blossoms erupt in early spring. They require cross-pollination with an unrelated cultivar that blooms at the same time. He suggested cultivars to plant together: Aurora and Honey Bee or Aurora and Boreal Beast for cross-pollination. Steffen stressed buying plants from reputable companies and to be sure to inspect plants on arrival for damage, pests, and healthy plant tissue.

Check with Cornell University online for their list of nurseries that sell root stock.

Best planted in the fall (*full sun*), slightly acidic soil (*pH-5*), plant 5’ apart. The plants have shallow roots so weed management is essential. Watering is crucial from May through July. Fruit ripen in June and July once plants are established (*takes roughly three years for produce*). Pruning is minimal the first three to four years. Just need to remove any dead, diseased, or touching branches. Once the plant is well established, pruning should also include thinning out older branches. Do not prune more than 25% of the plant in any given year.

The berries are an irregular-shaped, elongated blue berry that grow on bushes. Their flavor is described as a cross between a blueberry and raspberry with an added zing. Berries should be picked approximately two weeks after the fruit turn purple. Berries can be stored in the refrigerator up to four weeks.

Haskaps have 3X’s more antioxidants and vitamin C than blueberries! They can be eaten fresh or used in products such as pastries, jams, juice, wine, ice cream, yogurt, sauces, syrup, and candies. The skin is thin and dissolves quickly. Seeds are tiny, much like a kiwi. The berries make a high quality wine with a deep burgundy color.



Birds love the fruit—netting is recommended (*cedar waxwings, blue jays, and robins*); however, deer seem to ignore the bushes and berries. Few pests are attracted to the plant.

It was interesting to note that the Peninsular Research Station in Door County will be doing a research trial evaluating ten different varieties of haskaps this summer.

Officers:

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Cheryl Eberle

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<https://www.kcgardenclub.org/>

Garden Terminology

Acidity
Alkalinity
Amendments
Annual
Bolt
Companion
Compost
Cover Crop
Deadheading
Determinate
Dormancy
Everblooming
Grafted
Groundcover
Hardening Off
Heirloom
Humus
Hybrid
Indeterminate
Irrigation
Loam
Ornamental
Perennials
pH
Stratification
Transplant
Vernalization

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