



# Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

## **Habitat Loss ... Everyone Loses ...**

The recent news reports are anything but encouraging regarding our environment. With the flooding, not only in our communities but throughout the USA, as well as all the wildfires, it is no wonder the man upstairs is very angry. This not only affects humans who struggle to clean up the mess and move forward, our pollinators and animals lose their natural habitat. This is devastating!

### **Besides the flooding and wildfires, other factors are affecting Habitat:**

1. Expanding farmland by reducing forests, wetlands, and grasslands that are cleared to grow crops or raise livestock.
2. Industrial development and urban expansion fragment and destroy natural habitats, and further disrupts migration routes.
3. Extreme weather conditions jeopardize existing habitats from being viable.
4. Chemicals, plastics, and runoff degrade marine habitats.
5. Invasive species outcompete native species, further reducing habitat quality.

### **Consequences**

1. Species extinction worldwide
2. Clean air, water, carbon capture, and food are compromised which affects wildlife and humans.
3. Deforestation contribute to greenhouse gas emissions accelerating climate change and habitat.

## Programs and Events

**Saturday, May 23**—28th Annual Garden Plant Sale on the Lakehaven grounds in Kewaunee 9:00 a.m.—Noon

**Tuesday, May 19**—Invasive Plants—Barbara Piechocki, ESI Hub at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Tuesday, June 23**—Valentine Gardens, Green Bay 1:00 p.m. Possibly Stone Silo Prairie Garden in Ledgeview following Valentine Gardens Tour.

**Tuesday, July 28** - Weed and Feed at Dana Farm at 4:00 p.m., Food at 5:00 p.m. Bring your favorite potluck 'yummy' dish to share with the hungry gardeners!

**Tuesday, August 25**—Garden Tour at Lynn and Lyle Berceau, E2111 River Road, Casco.

**Tuesday, September 22**—Open

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

**Tuesday, October 27**—Joel Weichelt will give a presentation. Title, time, and place TBD.

**Tuesday, November 24**—Christmas Crafting?

**December**—KCGC Christmas Party

*28<sup>th</sup> Annual*

## **Kewaunee County Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 23, 2026  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lakehaven Hall lawn  
Kewaunee

**Let's celebrate Memorial Day  
and  
America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Style!**

### **Plants:**

- **Annuals**
- **Perennials**
- **Natives**
- **Heirloom Tomatoes**
- **Herbs**
- **Grasses**

### **Additional:**

- **Potatoes in a Bag**
- **Shitake Logs**
- **Gardening Kits**
- **Shrubs**
- **Trees**
- **'Free' Table**

# Garden Club Plant Sale Photos 2025

**Cashiers:**  
Glenn and Ann Brunner  
Cheryl Eberle



**Cloudy Day** but attendance was great!

Plant Sale setup 2025



## What to Plant?



### Spring Bulbs:

**Yucca** is a perennial and would pair nicely with bright red **Asiatic lilies**. The vibrant red lilies will lure hummingbirds to your yard.

Pair red or pink **astilbe** flowers with **chartreuse and blue-green hostas**. Purple allium and a bicolor bearded iris creates a stunning mix in a garden bed.

**Mix bulbs with perennials.** Try anemone with coral bells. Snowdrops, crocus, and narcissus would also be good choices.

### Native Plants/Pollinator Gardens:

Attract bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects to the garden with nectar rich flowers such as bee balm, salvia, purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan, and asters. Milkweed is as good for fire protection as it is for pollinators! (*This is due to their moist stalks.*) Black-eyed Susans and asters will bloom from spring through fall, a steady food source for pollinators. Add Zinnas to the mix for a variety of colors. Even though it is an annual, sometimes they reseed for the following season.

### Vegetables with annuals ... perennials ... herbs:

Marigold, nasturtium\*, or oregano next to **cucumbers**. Great for trapping aphids, beetles, and pests in general. Added bonus ... it is colorful!

Borage planted among **squash** deters worms and improves growth and flavor. Also, the use of marigolds, nasturtium\*, and oregano are great for pest control.

Plant basil by **tomatoes** to repel flies and mosquitoes. Basil also improves flavor. Marigolds deters nematodes and tomato worms and general garden pests.

**Carrots** love to be next to peas and onions, savory, thyme, Rosemary, or sage.

Planting dill alongside **broccoli** repels pests and attracts beneficial insects. Sage reduces pest egg-laying. Thyme and nasturtiums\* reduce damage from cabbage worms.

\***Plant nasturtium** in a container rather than in the ground as the plant will take over the entire bed!

## Be a Garden Steward

**Never work with soil when it is wet.** Moist soil particles cling together tightly when compressed. As the compressed soil dries it becomes hard and restricts root growth.

**Soil is alive and complex.** Digging, weather, and plant growth are constantly changing soil properties. Replenish nutrients lost to plant growth and weathering by applying a 2" thick layer of compost every spring.

**Choose compost over commercial fertilizers.** Compost delivers nutrients, improves soil texture, and water adsorption, and invigorates the microorganism population. Commercial fertilizers simply deliver nutrients.

**The best compost is made by the gardener!** Set up a compost pile for yard and kitchen waste in an out-of-the-way corner of the yard.

## Sweet, Fragrant Peonies



Hardy and unfussy, peonies deliver petal-packed spring color and sweet fragrance.

There are three kinds to plant: herbaceous, tree, and hybrid peonies. What to grow?

Most gardeners know and love the very sweet and fragrant **herbaceous variety** of peonies. Their flowers range from single to double on any given stem. These plants grow very well in the Kewaunee County area. The cold blast of winter is essential for the flowers to bloom. The blooms last seven to ten days.

The **tree peonies** reach up to 7' and their flowers measure up to 10" across. These shrubs make a big impact in the garden. The flowers bloom in a wider range of colors than do the herbaceous peonies and last a little bit longer. They don't require below-freezing temperatures but certainly can handle them.

The **hybrids** combine herbaceous peonies with the sturdiness and color range of tree peonies. They reach heights from 2' to 3'. Their blooms last up to a full month and will grow very nicely in zones 4-9.

**Growing them:** They thrive in full sun and well-drained, fertile soil. Space 3' to 4' apart for good air circulation. They prefer not to be transplanted in zones 2-8.

**Try this to suppress weeds in a garden:** Perennial groundcovers prevent weeds by exuding compounds from their roots aimed at preventing other seeds from germinating.

## Officers:

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Tom Zenner

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Cheryl Eberle

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The **Sunflower** is the national flower of Ukraine and the official state flower of Kansas, the 'Sunflower State'.

Sunflowers remove metals such as cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, and zinc from the soil. After the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster in 1986, sunflowers were planted to help remove radioactive materials from nearby ponds and soil.

Who doesn't smile when they come face-to-face with a sunflower! The heads follow the sun from east to west. The flowerheads come in array of colors, some varieties stand tall above all other flowers, their seeds feed the birds and humans who love the seeds roasted for a snack. Sunflowers add height and cheer to bouquets and vases with added daisies, lilies, and snapdragons to balance colors.

**Not all sunflowers reach for the sky.** There are dwarf size, usually 12" height all the way up to a record high of 35 feet, 9 inches! The tallest was raised in Fort Wayne, IN in the summer of 2025.



**Starburst Greenburst**  
12" - 24"



**Chocolate**  
15" - 30"



**Teddy Bear**  
2'



**Mexican Sunflower**  
3'



**Bambino**  
16"