

KEWAUNEE COUNTY GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Spring Has Sprung!



“In the Spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” - Margaret Atwood

Your calendar may say that spring begins Wednesday, March 20; however, Mother Nature says ... ‘look outside’ ... ‘spring is here’. “Don’t you see and feel the bright sunshine, experience warmer temperatures, and the longer days?”

Spring signifies coming out of the darkness ... longer days. It is a time to go outdoors to enjoy nature at its finest. Gardeners wait for this special time to get their hands in the warming, earthy soil! The longer, sunny, and warmer days have a way of boosting ones mood, well-being, and energy.

It is time to give the home a thorough cleaning inside and out. Washing windows is a must so that you can see clearly the evolving ‘green, spring wardrobe’ displayed by Mother Nature. The first flowers you will see are those dreaded dandelions; however, every part of that weed is edible. Daffodils, tulips, irises, forsythias, lilies, and lilacs are popping up all over. Open some windows to let in the fresh air. Take a deep breath and let all your worries go out the window.

Robins have made their entrance telling you that it is spring. Other songbirds are steadily chirping a new song every day making a real chorus when one is outside. Birds aren’t the only sounds that you hear, bees, butterflies, and the hibernating animals can be heard. Bees are buzzing about the yard, butterflies are fluttering about, and frisky animals are fighting for their territory and food.

Every gardener is just itching to get outside and work the soil. Test the soil ... damp clay can be rolled up into a ball that stays together. Sandy soil is gritty, and silty and feels powdery and smooth, like cornstarch. The pH level measures how acidic or alkaline the soil is. It influences how plants take up nutrients. Garden centers sell soil test kits or you can contact your local extension office. It is suggested that your soil be tested every three years. Once you have the pH results, add the necessary soil amendments so that planting of flowers, herbs, and veggies can begin. Cool weather crops (*veggies*) may be planted now, but all others need to wait until there is no danger of frost.

Happy Spring!

Programs and Events

Sunday, March 17—Cooking Demonstration at Glen Innish Farm

Tuesday, March 26—Garden Expo debriefing

Tuesday, April 23—"Petal Power" with Sue Hepp

Saturday, April 27—World Migratory Bird Day celebration
Algoma High School 9:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21—"Bugs ... good and bad" with Barb Piechocki

Saturday, May 25—KCGC Plant Sale, Lakehaven grounds,
Kewaunee 9:00 a.m.—Noon

Tuesday, June 25—Dana Farm 'Weed n' Feed' 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23—KCGC in conjunction with HCE—Glenn Innish Farm

Tuesday, August 27—"Steam Canning" with Mary Novak

Possible Summer Tours:

Oh, My Peonies—Marion, WI

Monk Botanical Garden—Wausau, WI

Butterfly Garden—Appleton, WI



Garden Expo 2024



Video Lectures 2024

If you were unable to attend the 2024 PBS Garden Expo, there are several videos on their website covering a wide variety of subjects.

<https://wigardenexpo.com/live/>

Legacy Trees and the Prairie Savanna Project with Cindy Becker and Matt Noone.

All About Garden Tools with Alena Joling

Simple Steps to a Beautiful Rose Garden presented by Diane Sommers

Container Gardening with Lisa Johnson

Preserving the Harvest presented by Becky Gutzman

Preventing Bird-Window Collisions at Your Home presented by Brenna Marsicek

Seed Starting

If you haven't already sown your seeds, this would be a good time to get started. Select veggie seeds that you or your family like. Some veggies to start now ...

1. **Tomatoes**—select blight resistant varieties
2. **Peppers**— traditional green or get daring and try jalapeno or habanera
3. **Eggplant**— choose the variety with a rounded, dimpled bottom (*male*) - less seeds

March and April Gardening Tasks

1. Dig, divide, and plant most perennials on a warm, sunny afternoon.
2. Start spring-cleaning in flower beds.
3. Mulch to hold in moisture and control weeds in the garden.
4. Wait until after danger of frost before planting annuals in the garden.
5. Divide, repot, and fertilize houseplants before moving them outdoors for the summer months.
6. Prune roses, trees, shrubs for any damaged, diseased, or tangled branches.
7. Fertilize bulbs with bone meal after blooming.
8. Be diligent about weeding. Weeds compete for moisture and nutrients needed by plants.
9. Plant summer-flowering bulbs: iris, lilies, and dahlias after the end of March.
10. Trim back ornamental grass stalks to clear room for new growth.
11. Extreme temperature fluctuations and freeze-and-thaw cycles cause water in the soil to expand and contract which leads to frost heave where the plant and its roots get pushed out of the ground. Gently push frost-heaved plants back into the ground so their roots are no longer exposed.
12. Remove any dead leaves from perennials but don't cut the stems back to the crown or base of the plant. Native bee species lay their eggs in the pithy centers of the stems in the spring and the larvae will emerge from them in the summer.
13. Soil test ... should be tested at least every three years to make sure that soil fertility and pH are where they should be.
14. Amend soil regularly with organic matter, cut grass, straw, or compost.
15. If you haven't emptied your planters or containers, now is the time to do so, wash and sanitize them. (*9 parts water: 1 part bleach or use peroxide*)

World Migratory Bird Day

Theme: 'Insects'

(focus on their importance in the ecosystem)

Algoma High School
1715 Division Street
Saturday, April 27, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Hosted by: Bird City Algoma Committee

Steel Belly BBQ

(food truck) by
Cafeteria Door Entrance
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Vendor Area in Cafeteria

Informational Displays by Local Organizations

Little Theater:

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.: 'Birds and Bugs' by John Walch

10:30 a.m. – Noon: Panel Discussion featuring ...
Jacob Woulf, John Walch, and Gurmit Walch
{Habitat, Motus, (tracking) and Travel}

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.: 'Winged Wonders'
Raptor Education Group, Inc. Live Raptors!

Gardening Kits

- Telescope (*toy*)
- Puzzle (*box*)
- Old Tennis Shoes
- Goggles or Sun Glasses
- John Deere Tractors/Wagon
- Train (*toy*)
- Books (*hard cover*)
- Baseball Mitt
- Jump Rope

Some fun ideas of what to look for when rummaging. **Please get your 'containers' to Sue Hepp no later than April 10.**

- Stuffed Animals (*medium-size*)
- Gardening Boots
- Cookbooks/Gardening (*hard cover*)
- Barbie/Ken Toys
- Fishing Poles (*small*)
- Photo Frames
- Bread Boards
- Pillows (*small*)
- Oven Mitts



Come Early!

2024 Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 25

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Lakehaven Hall, Kewaunee
(on the grounds)



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**Gardening Kits
for
Kids and Adults**

Visit website for more details:
www.kcggardenclub.org

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
Weichert



H = hope is where flowers bloom

A = arrival of Robins

P = peeking bulbs

P = perfect weather for hiking and nature walks

Y = yearning for possibilities



E = everything awakens

A = "April hath put a spirit of youth in everything" -William Shakespeare

S = scents abound

T = "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow" - Audrey Hepburn

E = "Earth laughs in flowers" -
Ralph Waldo Emerson

R = rebirth of the spirit