

# Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

January—February 2022

## Putting Your Christmas Tree to Work in the Garden

It is sometimes difficult to undecorate that beautiful Christmas tree, but you must because the floor and surrounding surfaces are covered with needles. You put a lot of time and thought planning a theme and how to decorate it for the holidays. It is time ... but, what to do with it? There are several creative things to do to give back to nature!

1. **Use its Branches to Mulch Perennials** ... Cut long branches with loppers or pruners then lay them over your perennials in the garden. Very helpful to prevent frost heaving and those plants that are marginally hardy for our zone.
2. **Shelter for Birds** ... Take the tree with stand and place it in your backyard. It can fill in a bare spot or give you something to look at other than gloom. It would be a great shelter for birds during the extreme cold temperatures and snow. However, if you have a lot of trees, you may consider just laying the tree on its side to provide shelter for other wildlife.
3. **Compost Pile** ... Place a layer of thin branches at the base for airflow at the bottom of the pile. The branches will break down more slowly than smaller organic materials. Add your compost materials on top.
4. **Mulch a Garden Pathway** ... Cut thinner tree branches into smaller pieces and add them to your vegetable garden pathway. The pathway will smell wonderful once you walk on it!
5. **Branches as Pea Braces** ... Insert the branches into the ground in a crisscross fashion or tie the branches together to help stabilize the branches. Your planted peas will grab onto the tendrils of the branches and climb freely.
6. **Repurpose the Trunk** ... Trim all the branches off of the trunk and use it as a rustic garden bed edging. You could also use it as a support for vining plants.

Or, cut 1/4" to 3/8" rings from the bottom of the trunk and make ornaments or trinkets for the kids and grandkids to paint. Perhaps they are creative and can make a game with the smaller circles!

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## Programs and Events

**Tuesday, January 25**—KCGC Meeting via Zoom ‘Amazing Seed’ - Tom Zenner

**Saturday, February 12**—Garden Expo in Madison (*In person or Virtual*)

**Tuesday, February 22**—KCGC Meeting via Zoom ‘Controlling Weeds in the Vegetable Garden’ - Warren

**Tuesday, March 22**—KCGC Meeting ‘Growing and Using Lavender’ (HCE) Algoma Youth Club

**Tuesday, April 26**—KCGC Meeting ‘Garlic’ - Barbara Piechocki

**Saturday, May 14**—World Migratory Bird Day Celebration—Algoma Youth Club 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 24**—KCGC Meeting

**Saturday, May 28**—25th Anniversary of KCGC Plant Sale, Kewaunee

## January—February 2022

### Some gardening chores for January and February ...

1. Pore over the ton of garden catalogs you have received and plan your spring plantings.
2. Check for frost heaves around your outdoor plants, apply additional mulch as needed. Or, use your Christmas tree branches for mulch.
3. The beautiful poinsettia that you received for Christmas ... place it in a window where it gets a lot of direct light. Water when soil is dry to the touch; however, do not allow the poinsettia to sit in water.
4. Check your stored bulbs corms, or tubers for signs of rotting or dryness.
5. Recycle your Christmas tree.
6. Clean and sharpen your garden tools if you haven't already.
7. Inspect trees and shrubs for bark damage. Voles, rabbits, and deer can do a great deal of damage to your trees and shrubs.
8. Start seeds for cool-season vegetables and for annual flowers.



## Happy 25th Anniversary!

Please select which of the following projects below you would like to see for the anniversary celebration. **Please submit your selections to Tom no later than April 1, 2022** so Marketing can start planning for this special event.

1. Have monthly posts on Facebook and the Chamber regarding KCGC over the years. It could be projects or photos from events.
2. Have a flower quiz (photos) with 25 questions on the website. If someone gets all correct, they would receive a plant at the plant sale.
3. Display a history board; it would be fun to have a project board as well at the plant sale.
4. Slideshow on the website showing what KCGC does as a garden club.
5. Give the original charter members \$25.00 and a certificate.
6. Develop a perennial or tomato to give out to commemorate the 25th anniversary.
7. Plant a memorial garden at Dana Farm or some other location in Kewaunee County.
8. Display memorable items from 1997-2022 to show how gardening has changed in the past 25 years.
9. Commemorative T-shirt for volunteers to wear at the plant sale and other functions afterwards.
10. Have something commemorative to give out at the sale—decal, pen, or ornament made from circles from Christmas or birch tree trunk.
11. Have a planting area for children for them to either ...
  - a. Plant pumpkin seeds for their very own jack-o-lantern for Halloween
  - b. Plant swamp milkweed or butterfly weed to attract butterflies to their yard
  - c. Plant sunflower seeds to feed the birds. It would be fun to see photos of them when the sunflower is as tall as they are.
12. Have a planting demonstration/care of garden plants.
13. Put together a time capsule to be opened in 25 years!
14. Other?



## Right Left Story – Garden Club by Mary Novak *(If you missed Mary's creative story)*

- This is a story for the perfectly **right** organization for the 21st Century, the Kewaunee County Garden Club.
- Who agrees with that?
- The person on your **left**?
- The person on your **right**?
- I think we all agree with that!
- Let me share a few things so that you get the **right** perspective, and you are **left** with the **right** knowledge about the history of this fabulous group!
- This organization started because of the Master Gardener Program, which is connected to the Univ. of WI- Madison Extension **right** here in Kewaunee County.
- The club addresses current issues and offers just-**right** educational programs. +
- Education has **left** an indelible mark in our communities because of the tremendous volunteer spirit of members.
- There are some special individuals in the club that make this possible and with them, nothing is **left** to chance.
- Tom **Right** is the president and happens to be **left**-handed which is just **right** for this story.
- Tom **Right** seems to know just the **right** way to get discussion going at meetings, so that no one is **left** out.
- Working on horticultural projects is a high priority of the club, and if someone in the community says, **left** is **right** when **right** is **left**, he remains calm. While everyone has a **right** to their opinion, some people can be little **left** of center when it comes to gardening practices, but he takes it **right** in stride and approaches the issues by teaching.
- Cheryl Steadfast is the Vice -President. She is always **right** there to fill in if needed to keep the club on the **right** path.
- Susan Word**right** is the Secretary. She composes the minutes in her red-**right** notebook. Nothing is **left** to chance when the minutes are completed.
- If something needs to be checked, she searches **right** on every page to find the **right** answer.
- Susan Word**right** always finds it! Members appreciate her priceless contributions and **rightly** so.
- Annie Accurate is the Treasurer. Her name describes just **right** the precision job that she does.
- Without exception the numbers in her reports are **right**, and no one is **left** with doubt about her accuracy.

## **Right Left Story – Garden Club** by Mary Novak (*continued*)

- These officers are **rightly** special people!
- Indeed, there are no **left**-handed compliments for these officers, only accolades!
- We want to thank them **right** here and now for their dedication!
- Let's give them a hand of applause **right** now!
- A favorite Garden Club activity is the Plant Sale.
- It is held by the gazebo in Kewaunee which is on the **right** as you are headed north and on the **left** as you are headed south.
- This event is so popular in the community that hardly a plant is **left** over at the end!
- Any **leftovers** are given away.
- Volunteers step **right** up to help at this event, and we thank them **right** from the bottom of our hearts for their generous time and contributions.
- One time a Garden Club banner was lost.
- Was it **left** in someone's closet?
- Was it **left** at the previous event?
- Cheryl Steadfast declared, "Something doesn't seem **right!**"
- She had one idea **left** in her back pocket and sure enough, the banner was **right** at the Extension office.
- Concern turned **right** into relief as members got **right** back to planning.
- Yes... If garden club members are faced with **left**-handed circumstances, they resolve them by pitching in and working just **right** together.
- It is now time for this **right left** story to come to an end.
- Otherwise, the **left** and **right** sides of your plants will be worn **right** down!
- Some of the events and people are **left** out of this story, but that's all **right** because memories **left** unspoken are enjoyable too. All are **left** with a feeling that life is perfectly **right!**
- Let's just say that the Garden Club is the **right** organization for the 21st Century!
- Members are excited to belong to this wonderful organization because they are **left** with knowledge, leadership opportunities, friendship, and fun!

The End

December 2021  
(Christmas Party)

# Christmas Party

2021

Moxie's Supper Club  
Casco



## In The Rearview Mirror 2021!

Thought it would be fun to look back at all the garden club's happenings in 2021.

**January**—Meeting via zoom. An interesting and educational video on '10 Perennial Grasses' was presented by Proven Winners. Grasses that hold their shape vs. spreaders and cool vs. warm season grasses.

**February**— Meeting via Zoom. Video by North Spore Garden on 'How to Grow Mushrooms in Your Annual or Permaculture Garden'. We learned the different kinds of mushrooms, planting methods, mulching methods, and how to harvest them.

**March**—Meeting via Zoom. We learned about the Ancient Art of Bonsai. Bonsai actually means 'plant in tray'! It is an art form with living materials. A lot of wire is used to form the design of a bonsai tree inside or outside.

**April**—Finally met in person at Dana Farm with Dave Myers giving a tour of the grounds and the newly built warming house and bathrooms. Two scholarship applications were received.

**May**—Meeting at Dana Farm. Scholarships were awarded to Morgan Hrivnak and Justice Saxby. Discussion for the plant sale agenda. All felt that the plant sale went very well. Hostas and tomatoes were mostly left from the sale. The garden kits for youth and beginning gardeners was a big hit.

**June**—Workday at Dana Farm on June 3. Meeting at LC High School Greenhouse on June 29. Matt Haen explained the process of funding and building the new greenhouse. One thing that he brought up is that the hydroponics and aquaponics plants did not do well because of the excessive heat in the summer.

**July**—Meeting/Garden Tour at the home of Mary Ouradnik in Casco. She has an amazing garden filled with beautiful flowers and whimsical ornaments within the flowers.

**August**—Workday at Dana Farm on August 5. Green Bay Botanical Garden Tour on August 25. The special feature of the garden was 'Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea'. Creatively designed animals, mostly fish, were made from plastic garbage collected from the ocean. Those attending enjoyed the tour even with the heat, humidity, and mosquitos!

**September**—Meeting at Dana Farm. Joel gave a presentation on Mason Bees followed by those present constructing a mason bee hotel. The hotels went together quite nicely except for setting the screws with a drill! Ag Heritage Days was another function that several club members volunteered their craftiness in September. Approximately 50 pumpkins were painted by the children who attended. It was fun watching the kids select what they wanted for fairy gardens and their choice of pumpkins!

**October**—Fall Clean-up at Dana Farm followed by food! Gardeners worked tirelessly weeding deadheading, and trimming shrubs. Hostas were dug and potted for the plant sale in 2022.

**November**—Barb Smith organized and instructed those needing help on how to make a wreath, swag, or Grinch tree. Meeting at Ag Heritage Center, Kewaunee. Heifer International received 2 goats and a flock of chickens from KCGC in 2021.

**December**—Christmas party at Moxie's Supper Club in Casco. Cocktails, food, and fun for everyone! Everyone received a poinsettia, holiday arrangement, or gift. It may not have been the original one placed in front of an attendee' however, no one left empty handed! Mary Novak presented '*Right Left*' (see her creative game on page 5 and 6 in this newsletter) which made us all a bit dizzy! It was fun trying to keep right, right and left, left!

This will give you something to do rather than study and work through all those seed catalogs!  
 Circle the words from the chart below ... they are all there, promise!

## Gardening Word Search

M	X	W	L	E	W	O	R	T	L	C	V	Q	Z	H	C	L	U	M	U
J	Q	J	U	G	Y	B	A	S	K	E	T	F	Y	E	T	I	L	C	M
W	W	D	R	K	R	P	L	Q	R	E	W	O	L	B	F	A	E	L	J
F	U	Q	E	N	W	R	S	R	E	N	I	A	T	N	O	C	G	N	Z
E	Y	S	W	L	A	Q	A	W	E	E	D	W	H	I	P	P	E	R	E
R	H	M	O	L	X	C	Y	K	O	Z	F	D	X	L	O	M	R	F	N
T	O	D	N	E	E	T	G	F	E	S	S	P	A	D	E	M	P	D	C
I	S	N	N	V	R	F	W	N	X	I	M	G	N	I	T	T	O	P	J
L	E	X	W	O	I	H	F	H	I	I	S	P	L	A	N	T	E	R	S
I	L	V	A	H	P	F	O	I	A	R	X	G	J	B	K	W	Y	U	S
Z	B	O	L	S	H	R	I	E	B	I	E	N	O	X	C	H	X	C	E
E	N	H	R	W	Y	Y	U	D	T	W	R	T	A	A	T	E	O	F	E
R	G	L	O	V	E	S	F	N	C	O	V	F	A	P	O	E	I	V	D
L	P	C	Y	O	M	M	X	F	E	Z	S	G	W	W	F	L	L	C	S
U	F	G	M	C	Y	G	L	O	F	R	Q	P	M	C	Z	B	M	Q	X
D	R	K	S	V	L	K	G	C	C	X	S	O	D	P	W	A	S	J	I
F	L	O	W	E	R	S	Y	F	Z	F	P	S	O	U	Q	R	U	A	R
T	O	I	W	B	R	O	J	F	I	V	A	M	Y	Q	S	R	W	O	Z
Q	F	N	H	Q	N	I	H	L	V	O	O	I	F	E	Q	O	A	W	M
C	L	N	R	S	I	L	P	T	B	Z	J	X	G	V	A	W	G	P	C

- |            |             |              |        |              |             |
|------------|-------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------------|
| Basket     | Containers  | Potting Mix  | Pruner | Fertilizer   | Trowel      |
| Rake       | Flowers     | Seeds        | Gloves | Shovel       | Mulch       |
| Hoe        | Soil        | Hose         | Spade  | Planters     | Wheelbarrow |
| Lawn Mower | Leaf Blower | Watering Can |        | Weed Whipper |             |

## Rhyme *nor* Reason!

Connect left column garden terms that rhyme with those in the right column. Well, maybe some of them are a stretch but work with me!

Anemone

Annuals

Beet

Corms

Fern

Heuchera

Hoe

Leeks

Pepper

Pollination

Rhizome

Rose

Rosemary

Sage

Shrub

Stake

Tiller

Tomato

Tree

Weeds

Vine

Grub

Phlox

Bee

Petunia

Granules

Heat

Lopper

Pines

Peony

Spiller

Potato

Rake

Cage

Sow

Ozone

Urn

Germination

Hose

Mums

Strawberry

Hose

**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  
Weichelt



[www.kcgardenclub.org](http://www.kcgardenclub.org)

## Master Gardener Updates

**Onboarding-lite Class is required for all Master Gardeners for 2022.** Some of the items that need to be addressed before taking the class.

1. Prior to registering for the 'Master Gardener Program Volunteer Onboarding' online course, you must connect with Extension staff from Kewaunee County to learn more about the local opportunities available to you as a volunteer.
2. Registration opens in early January. Deadline to register for the course is March 15. Course must be completed by March 31.
3. Need to submit organizations that you plan to volunteer for before hours will be counted.
4. Accept the terms and conditions including the Code of Ethics for 2022. This will be conducted through the Online Reporting System (ORS).
5. Make sure all your information is updated in the ORS. **Site will not be available until after January 9, 2022.**
6. The Onboarding-lite 2022 class must be completed before volunteer hours will be counted. This class information will be in the UW-Extension Canvas Classroom. You will be notified by email when the updated version is available.