

Gardens

OF THE FOX CITIES

GET SOMETHING GROWING

1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton, WI 54911

www.gardensfoxcities.org

920-993-1900

Lights On Afterschool Event

On October 20, Gardens of the Fox Cities participated in the Lights On Afterschool event hosted by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley and the YMCA of the Fox Cities. Community agencies provided



carnival games for youth participants. Students were encouraged to join in our "Pollen Pass Challenge" shown above and make "Hawk Gliders" to take home in their prize bags. 728 students attended the Lights On Afterschool event.

Get Something Growing!

To receive the newsletter electronically, please SEND an email to info@gardensfoxcities.org. The newsletter is also available on-line at www.gardensfoxcities.org. Please call us at 920-993-1900 to reserve your printed copy.



Message From Executive Director Lynn Van Vreede

This is the time of year when we look back, remember, and give thanks for the successes in our personal, professional and business lives. The staff at Gardens of the Fox Cities would like the opportunity to share our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your commitments of time, in-kind donations and financial support. All of you have made an investment in the Gardens and we take that promise seriously.

We have much to be thankful for. This past year several exciting projects were completed and new relationships were formed in the community. We are excited about the future knowing that we have a wonderful group of people that believe in our mission.

From the staff here at Gardens of the Fox Cities, Happy Holidays!



Gardens Community Service Project

We made 260 holiday cards for patients at the Appleton Medical Center on Saturday, December 10. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped us with this community service project.



Pigments & Pollination Afterschool Program

Hannah, education coordinator, visited 2nd-5th grade students in the Community Learning Center afterschool program at Hoover Elementary in Neenah on November 14. Gardens of the Fox Cities, Paper Discovery Center, and Bergstrom-Mahler Museum are teamed up this fall to provide afterschool color-themed lessons to afterschool programs in Neenah, Menasha, and Appleton. We are able to provide these fun activities with a \$750 project grant from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. Hannah presented "Pigments & Pollination." They learned why flowers grow in many colors, names of pollinators that are attracted to flowers of certain colors, and how flowers and pollinators depend on one another for survival.



ADULT CLASSES

Build a Shallow Dish Garden at Reynebeau Floral

Saturday, January 14, 10-11:30 a.m.

Register with us to spend a Saturday at Reynebeau Floral in Little Chute. Instructor will lead a demonstration and assist you as you walk the greenhouse to select house plants. Reynebeau Floral will provide soil and tools. You may purchase a container(s) along with your plants and 10% of your purchase will go back to the Gardens. You may bring your own tools and shallow planting container(s). Bring a garbage bag to transport your container home. Members \$2; Regular Price \$6



20 Minutes in the Life or Death of a Tree

Wednesday, January 25, 6-7:30 p.m.; *Dan Traas, Ranger Services*
Improve your tree planting and establishment techniques by understanding how trees work in their natural environment. Learn common misconceptions and practices that occur during planting time which lead to premature decline and death of our urban and residential trees. Discover what a proper transplanting system is and how it will allow a tree to develop and thrive. Understand why the "20 minutes" is imperative to the LIFE or Death of our trees. Class will meet inside the building for lecture and tree dissection. Members \$6; Regular Price \$10

Organic Lawn Care

February 8, 6-8 p.m.; *Todd Rockweit, Backyard Organics*
Meet Todd inside the building for a presentation and Q&A session about organic lawn care. Presentation will include the process of brewing and benefits of using compost tea. Members \$6; Regular Price \$10

Pruning Your Garden

Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Lucy Valitchka, Master Gardener Volunteer

Bring your own hand bypass-type pruner, and/or lopper, to this winter garden maintenance workshop. This is an opportunity for beginners to learn about pruning technique and maintaining equipment in a lecture and Q&A setting. Try out techniques with hands-on practice outdoors. Members \$4; Regular Price \$8



Make Your Own Worm Bin

Wednesday, March 14, 6-7 p.m.

Jeanne Powley, Volunteer

Come make your own worm composting bin to recycle kitchen scraps. The worm bins are simple to make and easy to maintain - easiest pets ever. You provide the container – box is better than a bucket

– opaque plastic with lid approximately 16" x 20" x 12" deep such as Rubbermaid tub or similar. You receive everything else including worms to make and maintain your worm "farm". If you have a power handheld drill, bring it to share. Register by Monday, February 27. Members \$18; Regular Price \$22

To register for our classes:
920-993-1900 or on-line at
www.gardensfoxcities.org under Event Calendar.
We accept cash, check, MasterCard and Visa.

FAMILY CLASSES

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.
Dress for the weather.



Arts & Hearts Children's Photography

Sat., Jan. 28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Debbie Daanen & Ashley Schmit
Debbie Daanen Photography

Bring your own camera to learn about winter photography and create Valentine's

Day art. Outside, you will get a chance to explore and create your own earth art using natural materials and landscape. Inside, enjoy hot cocoa and make Valentine's Day paper photo frames. Members \$6 Regular Price \$10

Winter Walk & Nature Crafts

Sat., Feb. 11, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Hannah Schraufnagel, Education Coordinator

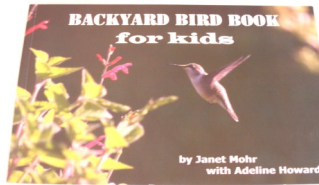
Meet inside the building to prepare for a guided winter walk. Enjoy hot cocoa and make track molds and winter tree bark rubbings. Bring your sled and dress warm to go outside on the Appleton Memorial Park sledding hill. Member Family Price \$6; Regular Family Price \$10

Backyard Birds

Sat., Mar. 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

Janet Mohr, Author and Hannah Schraufnagel, Education Coordinator

Meet inside the building to learn about backyard bird-watching and receive your very own copy of Janet's book Backyard Bird Book for Kids. Prepare for a guided bird hike around the Gardens and practice proper use of binoculars. We have eight Eagle Optics binoculars to lend on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please indicate when you register if you will bring your own pair of binoculars. Members \$4; Regular Price \$8



Grant Received From RBC Wealth Management

Gardens of the Fox Cities received a \$2,000 grant award from RBC Wealth Management. The funds are being used to offer Math at the Gardens, an existing field trip, as an outreach program for fourth through sixth graders. Math at the Gardens was introduced to area schools one year ago as a field trip at the Gardens. This grant provides funding to construct three "portable field trip kits". These kits will be used to teach Math at the Gardens in after school programs in our area. This project addresses a community need by teaching children basic math skills that they can apply in their daily lives. The program is hands-on and students work in teams.

Annual Fund Appeal

As winter draws near we want to recap our season:

- Educated over 2,000 children attending a field trip at Gardens of the Fox Cities
- Over 50 participants in our summer youth gardening programs
- Built a new fence for Marvin's Garden Summer Youth Gardening Program
- New shed built by Appleton West High School students
- New greenhouse installed and funded through the Building Healthy Communities grant from The Home Depot Foundation
- Installed new plants in the two Entry Gardens
- New Kaleidoscope and 400 plants in the Serenity Butterfly Garden donated by Rosemary Trettin
- Two informational kiosks added to our South loop through an Eagle Scout project

We need your support. We have more projects planned for 2012. Every donation helps us reach our goal of educating our community on plants, gardening and enriching our environment. You may call us at 920-993-1900 to make a donation. We accept cash, check, MasterCard and Visa.

Thank you for your support!

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 Education Coordinator

Gardens of the Fox Cities Mission: to promote an appreciation and understanding of plants and gardens in an enriching, inspiring environment.

Planned Giving

We invite families to contact Gardens of the Fox Cities at 920-993-1900 to set-up an appointment to meet with staff to discuss their Planned Giving options.

Scheig Learning Center Available to Rent

The Scheig is available for rentals all year long. Hold your wedding, meeting, or special event at the Gardens in a peaceful setting. Designed in classic Frank Lloyd Wright style the building soars from the earth. The beautiful cedar and pine woodwork was milled and fitted on premises by Shiocton Lumber. Our waterfall feature is a Taliesin signature element meant to bring the "outside in" and seem to take the "inside out" and is made of Fond du Lac limestone. The main level features a Great Room while the upper level of the Center has a modest class or meeting room. Both levels of the building are handicapped accessible. Please call us at 920-993-1900 to reserve the space.



Volunteer Spotlight



We are grateful to have Jeanne as one of our volunteers at Gardens of the Fox Cities. She taught grades 2 and 3 in the Shiocton school district for 33 years. Jeanne has been volunteering her time and talents at the Gardens since she retired in 2005.

Jeanne bikes and walks to the Gardens to volunteer since she lives nearby. She has watched the Gardens develop and grow since the beginning. Jeanne initially became involved with the Gardens by volunteering to help maintain the two Entry Gardens on evenings and weekends. She has become a year-round volunteer helping with school tours, office assistance, special events, and maintaining the gardens. Jeanne especially remembers the many, many, happy moments weeding in the Serenity Butterfly Garden. She loves volunteering at the Gardens because of the variety of jobs available for volunteers to do throughout the year. Jeanne is passionate about flowers and working with youth, chatting with the visitors she meets, and the friendliness of the Wednesday afternoon volunteers.

In 1998, Jeanne and her family donated money toward the Veterans Memorial Garden in honor of her mother. "Mom was a RA nurse stationed in New Guinea and she also aided on trains in the U.S. bringing veterans to their homes from coast to coast," she said. Unfortunately, her mother passed away before the Veterans Memorial Garden was completed. Jeanne often brings family members and friends to the Gardens to remember her mother and her service to our country.

Jeanne volunteers throughout the community by donating blood regularly, sings alto in a choir, participates in tai chi and water exercise classes, reads, golfs, cross country skis, quilts, and travels. This spring she is going to Spain. Thank you, Jeanne for all you do in our community.

Thank you to all of our volunteers. The total number of volunteer hours logged this year was: 2,458.