

## President of the Board Update

Greetings and welcome to the New Year. And what a year it is shaping up to be at the Gardens. With the addition of Val Wylie, our new Executive Director, and Sandy Paulus, our new Development Director, we are hitting the ground running. Many events are planned and some exciting new projects are in the works.

As you know, the Gardens did not have an Executive Director for most of 2008 and fundraising suffered as a result. In December 2008 the Gardens started a matching gift campaign with the help of some of our major supporters. The campaign gave us \$25,000 to match against. As of now, we have used about \$12,000 of the match, so it's not too late to help finish the campaign. With the triple match on December 18, 2008 and other triples such as Thrivent, we have raised over \$28,000 so far. We are hoping for \$60,000 by the end of the matching gift campaign. All you need to do is bring your membership up one level or more or give new money to the Gardens, and that money will be matched dollar for dollar. As a non-profit organization, every dollar we spend on education and beautification needs to be raised.

A huge thank you to all of you that have contributed already - your support is essential to our success.

Roger Van Vreede  
Board President

## Meet Val and Sandy!

We are excited to introduce and welcome Val Wylie as Executive Director and Sandy Paulus as Development Director. Please read below to get to know them and stop by to welcome them.



Val Wylie and Sandy Paulus

### VAL WYLIE

I am very excited to be joining the Gardens of the Fox Cities team. Although I have had a longtime passion for gardening, my field of knowledge is non-profit management. I have most recently served as the first Executive Director at the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame and was instrumental in opening the Paper Discovery Center four years ago in the former Atlas Mill along the Fox River. In 1986, I was hired to develop the Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau and served in that role for 13 years before going to Shawano as the Executive Director of the Shawano Area Chamber of Commerce for 3 years. I have been very involved in the Fox Cities community for over 30 years, most recently as one of the founding members of the Fox Cities Book Festival, Fox Cities Greenways and as a member of the Appleton Downtown Rotary.

I live in downtown Appleton in a very old house with about as much yard as I can maintain myself. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you and encourage you to stop by and introduce yourself. Together we will continue the great work of those who have previously committed time and talent to the Gardens and grow this community treasure to one of the jewels of northeast Wisconsin.

### SANDY PAULUS

I have been employed in the non-profit sector for more than 20 years and have extensive experience developing and implementing successful fundraising programs. Most recently, I served as Chief Development Officer for Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes. Prior to the new Council being formed, I was Development Director for Girl Scouts of the Fox River Area. Other positions I've held include Director of Leadership and Planned Giving at United Way Fox Cities and Foundation Director at Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh. *(continued on next page)*

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## Calendar of Events

Registration required for most classes.

### **VOLUNTEER EVENTS**

#### **Volunteer Meet & Greet**

March 24, 2009

2:00 – 6:00 pm

#### **Tree Planting Training Session**

March 28, 2009

9:00 am - Noon

### **ADULT CLASSES**

#### **Herbal Teas**

March 11, 2009

6:30 – 8:00 pm

#### **Gardening 101**

March 21, 2009

9:00 – 11:00 am

#### **Rain Barrel Making Workshop**

April 1, 2009

6:15 – 8:15 pm

#### **Vegetable Gardening**

April 8, 2009

6:30 – 8:00 pm

### **CHILDREN'S CLASSES**

#### **Seed Starting Clinic**

March 14, 2009

9:00 – 11:00 am

Ages 4 - 12

#### **Children's Herb Class**

March 18, 2009

Learn about chocolate

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Ages 6 – 12

April 15, 2009

Fragrant herb craft

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Ages 6 - 12

#### **Salute to Earth Day**

April 19, 2009

1:00 – 3:30 pm

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Besides serving as President of Oshkosh Downtown Rotary, I have been a board member for the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center and the Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership of Wisconsin. I have been awarded the professional Certified Fundraising Executive designation (CFRE).

I invite you to call or stop by my office at your convenience. I am interested in learning about what you love about the Gardens and how, together, we can make the Gardens a destination for individuals from the Fox Cities and beyond. Thank you for all you do! Your continued commitment and support of the Gardens is greatly appreciated.

#### **Down & Dirty in the Gardens – A Season of Change**

Danette McMurrin, Grounds Superintendent



Greetings from the Gardens!

Changes are happening! If you hadn't noticed, I have taken over the maintenance and development of the 35 acres that comprises the Gardens.

With all the time that we have spent indoors, the upcoming change of seasons is definitely something to look forward to. Even though it is still a couple of months away, there are things that you can do now to make the transition upcoming gardening season a happy and productive one.

Maintenance of your gardening equipment is a task that you can do now to prepare for spring. Now is the time to think about tuning up the lawn mower engine by giving it an oil change and replacing the spark plugs and filter. It is also important to sharpen the blades on your lawn mower to ensure a smooth, clean cut and avoid the ripping effect that occurs with a dull blade. Dull blades lead to disease, and in the very least, an unattractive browning of the tips. You can also clean and sharpen any other blades such as pruners, loppers, and shovels.

The dormant season (late fall, winter, *early* spring) is the best time to prune many trees and shrubs. This time is ideal because it allows for pruning prior to the initiation of bud break. This only applies to shrubs and trees that produce flowers on the current season's growth. Some examples of these types of plants include: shrub roses, most evergreens, *Hydrangea*, *Euonymus*, *Hibiscus*, *Potentilla*, and Smoke Bush.

Pruning of spring flowering shrubs should be done shortly after the plant has finished flowering. Some examples of spring flowering shrubs are: Lilacs, some *Viburnums*, Honeysuckle, Bridalwreath *Spirea*, *Forsythia*, *Weigela*, Chokeberry, Mock Orange, and some Dogwoods. Pruning into summer growth on spring flowering plants is dangerous because you run the risk of eliminating the next year's flower buds.

If you are just looking for a chance to change your surroundings, then perhaps a visit to the Gardens is just what you need. Adult education classes start in March or you may also be interested in being a volunteer! One more reason to get excited is our beautiful spring bloom display. I personally can't wait to see what 38,000 bulbs in bloom looks like!

#### **Adult Classes**

Adult classes continue to be planned and offered. To check out our full line up of classes, or to register, visit our website at [www.gardensfoxcities.org](http://www.gardensfoxcities.org) or stop in at the Gardens.

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## **Board Officers**

Roger Van Vreede – President

Hans Schultz – Vice President

Randy Dummer – Treasurer

Emily Haupt – Secretary

## **Board Members**

Carol Catlin

Jackie Johnson

Lynn Lorge

Peter Pfundtner

Lynn Roehrborn

David Seitz

Steve Syverson

Lynn Van Vreede

## **Staff**

Val Wylie  
Executive Director

Sandy Paulus  
Development Director

Ann Hiltunen  
Children's Educational  
Coordinator

Danette McMurrin  
Grounds Supervisor

Pat Angell  
Administrative Assistant

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## **Get Something Growing! In Children's Education**

Ann Hiltunen, Children's Education Coordinator

We are gearing up for a busy Spring at the Gardens! A number of adult and children's classes and clinics are being offered this spring at the gardens. Please look them over to see if you, your child or grandchild are interested in attending. To register call the Gardens at 993-1900, register online or print the registration form found on our web site [www.gardensfoxcities.org](http://www.gardensfoxcities.org).

There are several Scouting Clinics as well.

Brownie Clinic: Plants/Earth is Our Home

Saturday, March 7, 2009

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Junior Girl Scouts: Outdoor Creativity/Plants & Animals

Saturday, March 21, 2009

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Cub Scout Earth Day Electives Clinic

Saturday, April 18, 2009

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Don't forget to sign up for Marvin's Gardens 2009 Gardening Program. Children ages 6 – 12 are welcome. Each participant will care for a small garden plot that they plant with vegetables as well as have activities and projects related to gardening. Contact the Gardens to sign up today!

We already have a number of schools reserving dates for the Plant 101 field trip. Volunteer educators and tour guides are needed for these field trips to take place. Please contact Lynn Lorge at 920-968-8700 to volunteer.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Lynn Lorge, Board Member/Volunteer Coordinator

Danette is looking for volunteers for spring clean up Tuesdays and Thursdays starting mid April.

Ann is in need of volunteer educators and tour guides for the Plant 101 field trips this spring.

Please contact Lynn Lorge at 920-968-8700 if you are interested in volunteering for the above needs or any other opportunities.

### **Save the Dates!!**

Here are a few upcoming events – mark your calendars so you don't miss these great events!

**April 29 - May 16** – Fox Cities Blooms

**May 10** – Mother's Day Brunch

**May 16** – Gardens Around the World – Heirloom Plant Sale (Some of the same and many new plant offerings – spice up your garden!)

**June 20** – Summer Solstice Celebration



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## Wish List

The Gardens of the Fox Cities accepts in-kind donations of needed supplies, equipment, and services. Donated items help keep our administration costs down and donors may be eligible for a tax donation.

If you find an item on the list below that you are able to donate, please contact [spaulus@gardensfoxcities.org](mailto:spaulus@gardensfoxcities.org)

If you would like to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase of a specific item, simply include a note to indicate which item you are contributing toward.

- ◆ Garden & Barn Carts (2)
  - ◆ Ergonomic gardening tools
    - (6) Weeders
    - (6) Trowels
  - ◆ (10) Garden Kneelers
  - ◆ 12-Cup coffee maker
  - ◆ Adjustable 21" Garden Tiller
  - ◆ Paper toweling and napkins
  - ◆ Large black garbage bags (40" x 46")
  - ◆ Tractor Tires
    - (2) 29-1200x15 Turf & Field 6 ply
    - (2) 20-800x10 Turf-saver 4 ply
  - ◆ Truck Tires
    - (4) P205 75R15 All Season
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## Give A Gift of the Gardens

Looking for a special gift? Give flowers all year long!

A gift membership is a unique way to support the Gardens of the Fox Cities and introduce others to the Gardens we all love. Mother's or Father's Day, weddings, birthdays, graduations...a gift membership to the Gardens of the Fox Cities is the perfect gift for the garden lovers on your list.

Benefits of Gift Membership include:

- Subscription to our members' newsletter, *Get Something Growing!*
- Free admission or discounts to over 190 botanical gardens and arboreta
- Discounts on classes and seminars
- Special group garden travel opportunities
- Invitation to special Friends' only previews and events
- Recognition in Gardens' newsletters and annual report
- Borrowing privileges at the Gardens' *Charlotte Beardsley* horticultural library
- Knowing that you are supporting the Gardens in providing outstanding botanical, horticultural and environmental education opportunities for people of all ages

Giving a gift membership is easy...Call Sandy Paulus at (920) 993-1900 or [spaulus@gardensfoxcities.org](mailto:spaulus@gardensfoxcities.org) A Membership Card and acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to the recipient. (Additional benefits are available at different membership levels.)

## Membership/Gift Information

Friend - \$50 to \$149  
Contributor - \$150 to \$299  
Patron - \$300 to \$499  
Benefactor - \$500 to \$999  
Founder's Circle - \$1,000 to \$2,499  
Director's Circle - \$2,500 to \$4,999  
Garden Leader - \$5,000+



Gardens of the Fox Cities  
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Appleton, WI 54912-2603

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