

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



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PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT

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Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and St. Croix District Receives Prestigious Award

The members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) recently honored the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation with their prestigious Award of Excellence, the highest award presented by NGC to a state garden club. The Award of Excellence honors a state garden club for an outstanding project that involves distinguished coordinated activity involving many clubs in the state. The project must be unique and superior in its scope and execution.

The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation coordinated a unique, educational, day-long "Your Garden—A Bird's Paradise" symposium at the Rassbach Museum in Menomonie, Wisconsin. The organizers designed this intense, one-day symposium to address critical environmental issues by bringing together a faculty to provide educational opportunities for members who currently cannot spend the time or resources to attend an NGC-sponsored school. The Federation's goal was to advance the NGC Mission of providing education and resources promoting the love of gardening while focusing on environmental concerns and climate change. They focused on birds, their decline, habitat needs, native plants, and what we, as gardeners, can do to help mitigate their decline. The participants from across Wisconsin included garden club members and others. They received information and education from four outstanding speakers, toured three private gardens showing examples of native plant gardening, took home four native plants to use in their gardens, viewed education displays from the Federation and other organizations, and interacted with others with similar interests and concerns. Gardens toured included a mini-prairie in a front yard, removing invasive plants and replanting with over 100 native species, and a townhome with native groundcovers that host larval food sources. The symposium organizers summed up the day with this, "Our symposium's goal was educating WGCF members on how we as gardeners can impact our world to mitigate the decline of birds. Based on this goal, as well as increased visibility, attendees from every WGCF district (they had planned for 40 attendees and had 106), a profit of \$1,988, and a 5 out of 5 evaluation by 94% of participants. NGC feels this is an outstanding success and a process that other states could easily copy.

About National Garden Clubs, Inc.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. currently has over 5000 local clubs, with 145,000 members, and over 330 international affiliates. The organization provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility. **Learn more about National Garden Clubs, Inc. at gardenclub.org.**

Gerianne Holzman

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National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Second Vice President



Left to Right: National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore, Wisconsin Garden Club Federation President Linda McCafferty, Award of Excellence Chair Gerianne Holzman