

## North Central Wisconsin Master Gardeners 2005 Year In Review

This year there were 85 active members, with 69 certified or recertified during 2005; this included two transfer members. The Basic Master Gardener course was given in the fall of 2005, with 27 enrolled students.

From May thru September, NCWGMG held weekly garden clinics. Our annual Dinner/Educational meeting, the *Fall Social*, was well attended. Our newsletter, *Fertile Ground*, was distributed electronically, but then discontinued in favor of detailed and more current electronic FYI's. Major events/projects for the year included:

- GardenVille - Our annual public plant sale of MG donated plants was a social and financial success.
- Cedar Creek Lawn and Garden Show - We distributed information about the MG program, and answered lots of gardening questions.
- GardenLine - A toll free telephone hotline for the public to call with gardening questions. One of our MG's then researched the questions, and answers presented to the caller within a few days.
- Festival of Trees - This is a fundraising event for a local hospital's Hospice Program. MG's participated by creating and donating one decorated tree for auction to the public. This year, our theme was *Garden Fairies*, and raised over \$500 for Hospice.
- Grants - During the past year, NCWGMG carefully reviewed a major cash grant to Wausau's proposed Monk Botanical Gardens. The membership voted unanimously in September to donate \$2000 in 2005, and up to \$2000 in each of the next 2 years. This decision was with the understanding that NCWGMG will be major participants in the Monk Garden's public education efforts.
- One of our members is creating a garden design for the entrance to UW Extension offices in Wausau.
- We continued planning for a memorial garden for deceased members.
- The Board began the process of By-Laws and Standard Operating Procedure revision. We plan to present updated documents to the membership in early 2006. Under the tutelage of our advisor Tom Cadwalleder, the Board developed a *Strategic Plan*. The process stretched over many meetings, some 12 hours of effort. Input from the membership was sought during several general meetings, and finally a consensus document was presented to the membership, which overwhelmingly approved the *Plan*, and our *Mission Statement*.

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*The North Central Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association strives to be the premier resource for gardening information in the community. We do this by continually learning and then volunteering our time and sharing our gardening knowledge and enjoyment with other master gardeners and residents in North Central Wisconsin.*

Our **Highlighted Project** for this year was **GardenWalk 2005**, featuring five gardens in the Wausau area, of which two were "MG gardens". The gardens, which ranged from expansive rural settings, to smaller art gallery settings, were chosen in several ways: suggestions from both members and non-members, and by the "driving around town" method.

The event was attended by over 350 people, over two reasonably sunny days in July. Each garden was hosted by the gardener, and several Master Gardeners working in shifts to greet the public, and facilitate their tour. Master Gardener Program information was given to many of the attendees, and lots of gardening questions were answered. We received a great deal of positive feedback, and interest in the program, and in gardening. This event was a successful and profitable venture, thanks to the extensive preparation and excellent execution. A large majority of NCWGM's participated in the planning, preparation, execution of GardenWalk 2005.

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**Water Getting Ready to Fall**



**Water Falling**

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**Rosy Pergola with Blue Gazing Ball**



**Shakespeare Olde English Herb Garden**

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**A Bicycle Built for ... FLOWERS**



**Where the Garden Gnomes Live**

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**Proudly Presenting a Check for Two-Thousand Dollars to Robert Monk,  
and The Board of the Monk Botanical Gardens,  
Wausau, Wisconsin**