A logo of a garden club

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

NGC Central Region

Convention

October 28-30, 2025

PERSPECTIVELY

A close-up of a person's head

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

CONNECTED

Osthoff Resort

Elkhart Lake Wisconsin

**Tuesday**

**Registration**

3:00 – 5:00 pm Outside - Crystal Lake Room

6:00 pm Dinner – Elkhart Lake Ballroom B

7:00 - 9:00 pm Arabella Dane – Photography

**Wednesday** **Breakfast on your own**

8:00 – 10:00 am Registration – outside Crystal Lake Room

8:30 - 9:45 am Executive Meeting Central Region Officers

& State Presidents

10:00 - 11:15 am Opening Convention – Crystal Lake Room

Welcome to Wisconsin

11:30 - 12:30 pm Luncheon – Elkhart Lake Ballroom B

Inspiration: Diane Greenawalt

Invocation: Catherine Williams

12:30 - 1:00 pm Donna Donnelly – NGC President

1:00 - 2:00 pm Program Speaker: Beth Ivankovic

Woolly Belly Pellets

2:00 - 2:15 pm Break

2:15 - 3:30 pm Birdseed Workshop – Maureen Wild Gordon

Crystal Lake Room

3:30 – 4:30 pm Table Discussion

Crystal Lake Room

5:00 – 6:00 pm Reception – Elkhart Lake Ballroom - B

Honoring Donna Donnelly

NGC President

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner - Elkhart Lake Ballroom B

Inspiration: Teri Ewers

Moment to Laugh: Joe Powelka

Invocation: Shirley Wolf

7:00 – 8:00 pm Program Speaker: Ryan Laswell

Nourish Farms

**Thursday**

**Breakfast on your own**

9:00 – 11:30 am Central Region Business Meeting

Registration & Voting Strength

12:00 - 1:00 pm Luncheon

Inspiration: Lisa Robinson

Moment to Laugh: Lynne Ehnert

Invocation: Wanda Zahrt

Awards: Kerry Krokos

1:00 - 2:30 pm Program Speaker: Mark Roehrig

Osthoff Grounds

2:30 - 2:45 pm Break

2:45 – 4:15 pm Windchime Workshop – Wendy Kramer

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner

Inspiration: Maureen Wild Gordon

Invocation: Tanya Stanley

7:00 – 8:00 pm Program Speaker: Janet Raddatz

Birds

8:00 - 8:15 pm Closing remarks & words for departure.

A logo of a garden club

AI-generated content may be incorrect. A red square with white text

AI-generated content may be incorrect. A green and white logo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Tuesday Dinner Speaker:**

**Arabella Dane**

Photography



How to Make your Smart Phone Camera work for you.

Arabella is an NGC Master Landscape Consultant and Gardening Study Consultant and serves on the NGC Board. Arabella is a photography instructor, a Photography Society of America Judge, and a member of several photography organizations and camera clubs. Arabella gives programs in person and via zoom. She has competed successfully in numerous international competitions. You can enjoy some of her images on this link: <http://www.nanpa.org/showcase-20019-winner-profile-arabella-dane-2019/> Arabella has compiled a plant data base of over 150,000 plants and is continually adding images of these plants and butterflies and other pollinators that frequent them. Her program will help you make your smart phone camera work for you.

**Wednesday Lunch Speaker:**

**Beth Ivankovic**

Ewe and Me Wool Company LLC



Woolly Belly Pellets - Beth Ivankovic and Janell Sworski started Ewe and Me Wool Company, LLC in 2023. Both women are shepherds and gardeners in addition to being passionate about the environment. Wolly Belly Pellets incorporate all three passions! Beth and Janelle have developed Wolly Belly Pellets from the wool of their sheep. The pellets are environmentally friendly and naturally enriches the garden soil. This product is a sustainable replacement for peat moss; it aerates and adds porosity to the soil; it leads to less watering in the garden or potted plants, and it fertilizes the plants (NPK ratio of 9-0-3). Beth will be presenting an interesting and informative talk on raising sheep and using the wool from their sheep to make these pellets. You will surely be inspired by Beth’s presentation.

**Sponsored by: Laura Skoff**

**Wednesday Workshop:**

**Bird Seed Wreaths: Maureen Wild Gordon & Jill Helgeson**

A bird sitting in a bird seed wreath

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Bird Seed Wreaths - Make your own bird seed wreath to take home and feed the birds. Don’t let the birds go hungry!

**Thursday** **Workshop:**

A mobile with bells on a branch

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Wind Chimes:**

**Wendy Kramer & Lynne Ehnert**

Wind Chimes – Make your own wind chime to hang in your yard. Let’s see how you shine!

**Wednesday Dinner Speaker:**

**Ryan Laswell**

Executive Director Nourish Farms



Ryan is the Executive Director of Nourish Farms, an organization that focuses on Farm to School and Farm to Community programs on their 13 acres that have 32,000 engagements per year. He has worked in the grocery industry for nearly a decade, in corporate wellness, and at Vanderbilt University in Cardiac and Pulmonary rehab. Ryan has been an advocate for the environment, composting, and understanding how our food choices can have a symbiotic relationship with the land around us. His passion for food, health, and the environment stems from his schooling at UW Stevens Point and abroad in Austria. In his free time, Ryan has volunteered compost collecting, environmental clean-up, and coaching soccer for his two daughters. He and his wife operate a small urban farm in Sheboygan and help on local farms in the county that focus on vegetable production.

**Thursday Dinner Speaker:**

**Janet Raddatz**

Master Naturalist

A close-up of a person smiling

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Plants for Birds & Pollinators

Can you imagine a world without birds or other pollinators? The benefits that these creatures bring are critical to us. Birds play an essential role in the functioning of the world’s ecosystems, in ways that directly impact human health, economy, and food production. Bird populations are declining; 2.9 billion birds are gone since 1970! Learn how to incorporate native plant species into your landscape can help our birds and other pollinators.

Janet and her husband, Andy, are avid bird watchers. Realizing the importance of habitat for our native species, they restored their yard of grass back to native southern mesic woodland over 20 years ago. Since 1999 Janet has been sharing her knowledge of Wisconsin’s bats and frogs with children and adults. In 2015 Janet and Andy became Wisconsin Master Naturalists.

Janet and Andy participate in BRAW – Bluebird Restoration Association of WI – where they monitor bluebird boxes in spring and summer and report fledge success. They have been the International Crane Foundation Annual Crane Count Coordinators for Sheboygan County since 1998 and have participated in the Crane Count since 1982. Since 2018 she and her husband have been leading a weekly Discovery Bird Walk at Kohler Andrea State Park.

Janet Raddatz has retired from a career in quality and food safety. She holds a master’s degree in quality from Marian College, Wisconsin and a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay**.**

**Notes:**

## Acknowledgments:

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped with this convention. As with anything, sometimes it takes a team to get things done, and a good group of people working together to put on a successful convention. Thanks to all who stepped up!

Revised 10/12/2025