



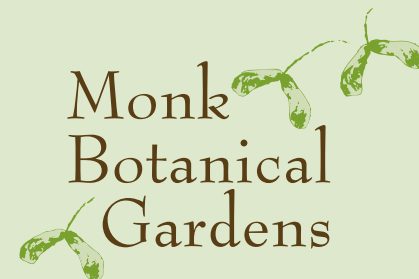
**Monk Botanical Gardens**

518 So. Seventh Avenue

Wausau, WI 54401

**(715) 261-6309**

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Permit No. 564  
Wausau, WI  
54401



# Notes from the Gardens

SPRING/SUMMER 2018



## Did you know...

### Monk Botanical Gardens Rents its Facilities?

Perfect for weddings, birthday parties, corporate outings and family gatherings. Go to [www.monkgardens.org](http://www.monkgardens.org) for more information.



Find us on:



### **Become part of the Monk Botanical Gardens Member Community today!**

Your membership helps support upcoming projects including our new education programs, summer intern program, hosta garden installation, and the renovation of the former Monk residence.

**Go to [www.monkgardens.org](http://www.monkgardens.org) to join today!**



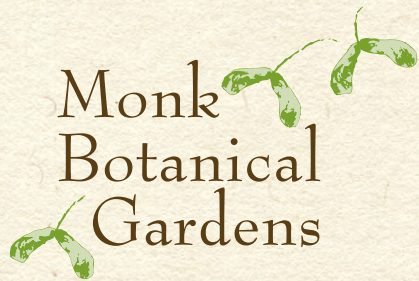
## Connecting with Nature... in the Snow.

How your gift helps  
preschoolers discover  
the natural world  
around them.



Photo by Alex Eichten





## News from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

***As our season begins,  
I'm so grateful for you!***

Dear Fellow Garden Enthusiasts:

You *truly care* and you show it through your continued support of the Gardens. **Thank you** for supporting the development, maintenance, and growth of the themed gardens, educational programs and the events which provide a connection with nature for all who visit.

This is the inaugural printed newsletter, "Notes from the Gardens". Twice per year you'll receive this informative piece, keeping you up to date on how *your support* helps develop new themed gardens, facilities, and ways to educate the community about topics such as farm-to-table, healthy eating and cooking, the beauty and usefulness of botanicals, and gardening how to's.

Our cover shows an excited preschooler out in the elements smiling from ear to ear. He was one of six children to attend our first Tots in the Garden program, which started in April. Each session explores the natural world using the alphabet as a guide. At this first class, children came prepared for the snow and ready to search for American robins. While American robins were hard to find, pure happiness and excitement was abundant amongst the children. They ate "worms" in their mud pudding, created a nest with blue robin eggs and searched for signs of the robin. *This program is possible because of your continued support.*

We welcome you to spring and look forward to seeing you throughout the season. Here's an applicable quote from fellow garden enthusiast and author Ruth Stout: "I love spring anywhere but, if I could choose, I would always greet it in a garden."

Meet you in the Gardens,

Darcie E. Howard

### Staff

#### Executive Director

Darcie Howard

#### Education Coordinator

Elise Schuler

#### Horticulture Supervisor

Wesley Ebert

#### Bookkeeper

Darrell Fritzel

#### Horticulture Intern

Harvey Harrison

### Board of Directors

#### President

Kris Weirauch

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Carolyn Wilde

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Darla Zastrow

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A GARDEN IS A  
**FRIEND**  
YOU CAN VISIT ANYTIME.

## Your Invited to Hsu Growing Supply's Open House!



Hsu Growing Supply, the Monk Botanical Gardens' Kitchen Garden operations sponsor and a longtime supporter, will hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for its new Farm & Garden store, soil line and facility promotion.

All are invited to enjoy the festivities and explore the property. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place Friday, May 4, at 2 p.m. and the Open House will take place Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both events are open to the public and family friendly. Food and refreshments will be served at both events. Enjoy tours of the compost facility during the Open House.

Hsu Growing Supply is located at T6500 County Road W, Wausau.

**www.hsugrowingsupply.com**



## Sharpen your Garden Skills at our Green Saturday Workshops, Saturday, May 19

New this year...workshops for gardeners and homeowners at our annual Green Saturday Plant Sale and Garden Flea Market, Saturday, May 19. Each workshop will last one hour. Cost is \$10 for adults; free to Monk Gardens members.

- Want to control weeds in your yard and garden? Identifying and weeding out those pesky plants will be explored in the first workshop, starting at 9 a.m. Paul Whitaker, Monk Gardens board member and professor of biology at UWMC, will be the leader. Paul's presentations are always fun and informative.
  - Pruning will be the topic of the second workshop, beginning at 10:15 a.m. Wes Ebert, grounds supervisor at the Monk Gardens, will show how to train new trees into attractive and healthy shapes, and how to trim and improve existing trees, shrubs, plants and bushes.
  - At 11:30 a.m., local horticulturalist Anne Kieffer will show you how to identify, plant, and care for a beautiful ornamental garden. You'll get hands-on tools to know what common species grow best here, and how to effectively plan and plant an ornamental garden. Anne has worked with the Monk Gardens for years, both as ground chair and a board member.
  - Want to attract butterflies and help the species survive and prosper? Then this workshop, beginning at 12:45 p.m., is for you! Darla Zastrow, whose involvement in the Monk Gardens goes back to the very beginnings, will show you what plants and flowers can be used to attract a variety of butterflies. Butterfly-attracting plants will also be available for purchase.
- Register at [www.monkgardens.org](http://www.monkgardens.org). Participation will be limited to 20 people per workshop.





## Summertime Events for Green Thumbs and Others

In addition to many new family and children's programs taking place this summer, the Monk Botanical Gardens will be hosting a full calendar of events for the adult population as well:

Here's the busy schedule:

**Green Saturday**, May 19, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plant Sale, Flea Market, Workshops. Our popular spring kickoff event! Enjoy shopping for plants, herbs, garden/yard supplies and flea market treasures. New this year is our "How to" workshop series at the Kitchen Garden Potager. Topics will include weed control, pruning, planting and caring for ornamental gardens, and butterfly plantings.

**Bird Walk in the Gardens**, Saturday, May 19, 6:30 to 8 a.m. In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, join the Wausau Bird Club in an early morning guided walk through the Gardens.

**Knitting in the Gardens**, Saturday, June 9, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In recognition of World Wide Knitting in Public Day, join Beth Paustian from Black Purl LLC and explore the world of knitting surrounded by the beauty of nature. All levels.

**Our popular summer bus trips**. To northern Wisconsin, Saturday, June 16, and central Wisconsin, Saturday, July 21. Depart at 6:45 a.m. and return at 7 p.m.

**Yoga in the Gardens**, Sundays, June 17 to Aug 26, 6 to 7:00 pm. Breathe in fresh air and nature as you practice yoga in the Gardens with the Wausau Area Yoga Association.

**Booze & Botany**, Thursday, July 19, 6 to 10 p.m. Join local mixologists for a night of booze, botany, and fun! Using fresh and unique local ingredients, demonstrations throughout the event will create artisan cocktails and leave you with the skills to impress! Sponsored by Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company.

**Dirt-to-Pot Cooking Series**, Mondays, August 6 through September 10, 6 to 8 p.m. This 5-week cooking series features popular local chefs teaching you how to prepare healthy and tasty dishes using produce from our Kitchen Garden. Participants learn to grow, maintain, harvest, prepare and cook meals. Sponsored by Throm Health and Wellness.

**Salsa Fest**, Thursday, Sept. 6, 6 to 8 p.m. A sequel to our Pesto Fest last year, this event invites community members to participate in a salsa contest, learn different ways to make salsa from local experts and taste a variety of salsa!

**Annual Ginseng Festival**, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 and 17, time TBD. Join local chefs for cooking demonstrations incorporating ginseng into each menu item.

For more information, click "programs" at our website, [www.monkgardens.org](http://www.monkgardens.org) and/or check our social media sites. Most events are free to members or discounted for members.



## Meet Elise Schuler—Monk Gardens' New Education Coordinator

Although Elise Schuler is from Illinois, worked in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and earned a wildlife ecology degree at UW-Stevens Point...the Monk Botanical Gardens in Wausau, WI is still one of her favorite places. "It's a great place for people in the community to get involved with nature—and it's right in their own backyard," she says.

Elise began the role of education coordinator at the Monk Gardens in February and has already created a strong plan for an active educational program kicking off this spring/summer... or once the snow finally melts!

"We planned a new Family Garden Club," Elise says. Starting the end of April the club will meet every month. "We'll have talks on gardening and gardening activities for the whole family—from preschoolers on up. We hope to see regulars every month with new people joining us as the season goes along."

Garden education will continue its popular Community Connections program with the Wausau Public Schools, weekly tours of the Monk Gardens, and also add new programs in conjunction with the local Boys and Girls Club.

"The Gardens are unique," Elise says. "There's so much variety, so much to explore. It's definitely an outdoor classroom."



## 2017 Healthy Kids Program Received High Reviews

Parents of students who attended the educational programs at the Monk Botanical Gardens last summer were surveyed to find out their kids' reactions and give us direction for future programs. The Monk Botanical Gardens scored highly and so did healthful eating!

"My daughter loved the activities at the Monk Gardens," said one parent, and repeated by many. Another parent applauded: "Different experiences in the community...especially at the Monk Gardens and with family yoga."

The kids spent time in the Kitchen Garden and developed an affinity for, of all things, healthful vegetables.

"My children got to learn about healthy vegetables," said one parent. Another said a highlight was "Planting a garden at Monk Gardens and trying the vegetables. I would never have gotten my son to try kale in a million years."

"You convinced my son that spinach is not an evil food," said another amazed parent. "He came home and told me I had to buy baby spinach and he would eat it."

Educational programming like this is made possible through grants and contributions from you, our generous supporters. Thank you!



# Your Generosity Helps the Monk Botanical Gardens Continue to Grow!

Thanks to your continued generosity and support, we were able to acquire nine acres of land and buildings that will extend the Gardens property!

We purchased the former Monk family residence located on the north edge of the Garden and the large lawn area just south of the Gardens. The additional space means we'll be able to complete the walking trail all the way around the pond (it had ended at the Monk residential property line) and create much needed office and storage space.

Purchase of the former Monk residence and its associated 6.5 acres enables us to provide the office space, summer quarters for out-of-town interns, and space for meetings and educational programs. The outbuildings will provide storage for equipment and gardening vehicles—a large improvement over the small shed near the front gate we've been using for years. To help us create an overall conceptional design, we hired architecure firm Funktion Design Studio in Wausau. We'd like the renovation to be functional, meet our office and educational needs, and be an example of sustainability.

The south lawn area will continue to be used on an as needed basis for overflow parking at well-attended events, but we'll review the area to see how it best fits with our overall master plan.

In support of this exciting expansion project, we received \$54,000 from an anonymous donor to begin the renovation. The overall project which will cost between \$225,000-\$250,000. We expect to start renovating and remodeling the residential property this spring.



Photo by Alex Eichen



## 2015 Summer Intern Update *Kate Seybold*

Back in summer 2015, Kate Seybold, a Monk Botanical Gardens education intern, watched with great interest and imagination as the Kitchen Garden Potager was being built. While she hasn't been back to the Gardens yet to see it completed, she's seen many pictures of the Potager. "It was fun watching it being built," she says. "Now, it looks phenomenal."

And now she works in a kitchen every day as a farm-to-school coordinator for the Minneapolis Public Schools. "I get to work with kids, teachers, and farmers," she says of her Twin Cities job. "We source local, sustainable food for all the school lunches in the Minneapolis School District. It's very rewarding and challenging."

"I certainly think my garden and youth education experience that I gained at Monk Gardens helped me to get my original AmeriCorps position with Minneapolis Public Schools, where I was then hired on after my year of service as the Farm-to School-Coordinator", Kate explained.

Kate, a graduate of Wausau East and the St. Olaf College biology and environmental studies program, loved her time at Monk Gardens. "It was great being outside," she says, "seeing the energy of the kids in the Community Connections program and the other educational activities, and working with Wes Ebert and the garden staff."

Kate is just one of many summer interns who've had the opportunity to work at the Gardens and learn for their student and professional careers. Thanks to the generosity of donors who've supported the intern program.



## Watch for Our New Hosta Garden... Coming Soon!

Monk Botanical Gardens and the Master Gardeners of North Central Wisconsin are very pleased to announce that construction will begin on the long-anticipated Hosta Garden. The garden, featuring a wide variety of hosta plants and also complementary shade tolerant plants, will be located at

the south shore of the pond along the walking trail. "This will be a wonderful addition to the Gardens," says Monk Gardens Executive Director Darcie Howard. "We are delighted at the partnership with the Master Gardeners."



## Kids & Families Summer Events at the Gardens

Don't know what to do with the kids or grandkids this summer? Bring them out to the Monk Botanical Gardens and have fun in our summer programs for kids and families.

The programs include:

**Family Garden Club**, which will meet the second Sunday of the month, 2 p.m., from April to December. Play, learn, and explore as a family in the Gardens. Each month we will explore a new topic including gardening, wildlife, bugs, birds, native plants, and more. Rain or shine.

**Tots in the Garden**, meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, April to December. Each session will be an adventure with nature, using the alphabet as a guide. We'll highlight a letter or two as we engage in hands-on nature activities. Have a snack, make a craft, and participate in an activity.

**Birthday Parties**, fun and affordable birthday adventures for your child. The Gardens is offering themed birthday parties for ages 3-12 during the months of June-Aug.

**Summer Garden Tours**, on various Wednesdays, May-Sept. Weather pending, no reservations needed. Bring your entire family and take an eye-opening tour of the Monk Botanical Gardens to explore its history, themed garden spaces, and diversity of plants that grow in the gardens. Private tours can also be arranged.

**Free Play Friday**, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26. Want to explore and learn about the Gardens at your own pace? Use our supplies and grab a bug net to see what you can catch, try out plant or animal identification books, or see things up close with a magnifying glass.

More information, as always, at our website: [www.monkgardens.org](http://www.monkgardens.org). Plus social media sites. Most programs are free to members or discounted for members. Thanks to the B.A. and Esther Greenheck Foundation for making these programs possible.

