



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Barbara Fetterolf

I grew up in New York State; a small town in the Finger Lakes region. My Mom was my inspiration for gardening. However, I wasn't keen on gardening as a teenager when I was asked to help her in the garden. My least favorite task was deadheading petunias! I began gardening on my own after college at a rental home.

I moved to Wisconsin in January 2011. Prior to the move here I lived in Northwest Pennsylvania. I did my master gardening certification in 1993. I met Mike Turner within my first year here and he was the one to encourage me to reinstate my master gardener status and volunteer at his sanctioned project, the Marigold Mile.

I was looking for a way to become connected after moving here and saw an ad for volunteering at The Gardens of the Fox Cities. That was my first volunteering stint in gardening in the Fox Valley. I was later hired as the garden manager.

I am married with three adult children. Our children live in New Hampshire and Denver, Colorado. Our kids like gardening; they are more invested in vegetable gardening. I like perennial gardening and trees. I do some vegetable gardening.

I love visiting gardens when traveling. In April, we were in the San Francisco area and David Calle mentioned a public garden and house I should check out: Filoli. We did and it was a highlight of our trip. When my oldest daughter was going to school in Philadelphia, we visited the Morris Arboretum several times. The Morris Arboretum has a 100 year old Katsura tree that is amazing. Since seeing it I have planted a Katsura tree in Pennsylvania and one here in Wisconsin. Another fantastic public garden in the Philadelphia area is Chanticleer.

When I am not gardening I like to read, exercise, cook and I play the piano. I didn't start piano lessons until I was an adult. Gardening is therapy for me. I feel relaxed and peaceful when I am in the garden.

