



Member Spotlight:
Donna Hartman



What is your favorite gardening activity? I love working with perennials. Most of my gardens are stocked with perennials. I created my gardens from scratch. My goal would be to try more vegetables within the perennial gardens.

What do you like to do in your free time- besides gardening?

I am involved with the Heckrodt Bird Club. I am crazy about finding new birds to add to my life list. Recently added the Snowy Owl and Redpolls. I also try to golf. I belong to a ladies golf league at Reid Golf Course. Great times with wonderfully patient women. Traveling is another love for me. Since I recently retired, it is high on my list.

Do you have a significant other? Kids? Pets?

I am divorced and have been for many years. I have two wonderful sons. Erich lives in Stevens Point with his wife Jamie. Erich has recently made an arbor for the entrance to my back yard. He is also a great welder! My youngest son is Geoffrey and lives in Appleton with his recent husband Allan. He is constantly buying me great objects for my gardens. My only pets are two goldfish that hang out in a water feature in the Summer.

What is something you would like to learn more about?

I'd like to learn more about garden design. I seem to purchase plants/shrubs/trees for what is pretty instead of what works in a certain space.

What is the best vacation you've ever taken?

I took my sons and their spouses on an Alaskan cruise when I turned 60. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and also was able to spend a week with my family and a few friends that also went along. They are still talking about the great time we had, especially the helicopter ride to walk on a glacier.

Why do you like living in this area?

After living in Minnesota for my development years, we moved to Stevens Point and lived there for about 20 years. I moved to Appleton in 1999 for a job opportunity. I only knew one person but the kindness of many of my colleagues helped acclimate to the area. I spent a few years sailing with a group in Neenah. There is so much to do and the opportunities seem endless. In retirement, I am looking forward to finding more opportunities in the community.

Who taught you how to garden?

My mother and father were farmers in my younger years. Guess I always had my hands in soil! While my kids were young, had a large vegetable garden. As they grew older, I gravitated to flowers. Love being outside in nature, watching things grow.

Favorite gardening website?

Not sure I can pick only one, but I really like Garden Answer. Many videos showing how to do rather just describing how to do something. I also like Flea Market Gardening.

What do you do in winter instead of gardening?

Most indoor projects are put on hold until I can be in the garden. I like to work on garden art projects indoors. I do like to snowshoe when the weather allows.

Do you use garden structures or art? How have you used them? Pictures?

I have many garden art items in my gardens. Many of them have been made or purchased by my sons (including new large arbor). I have many ideas that I hope to complete. I am having a fence installed around my backyard gardens in the Spring. My idea for keeping the rabbits out!! Another canvas for garden art. I'm always searching for great new ideas.