

Member Spotlight

Lucy Valitchka

I am married to Roy. We have four adult children, five grandchildren and one step-grandchild, who has almost completed studies to be a professional opera singer. As a result of my husband's membership in Rotary, we have had the opportunity to travel to England, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and South America.

We have had many people from other countries stay in our home during their Rotary tours to America. Besides gardening, I enjoy reading, traveling, music, cooking, some skiing and spending time at our north woods cabin. I like living in the Fox Cities because of the access to good schools, medical facilities, entertainment resources, shopping, the four seasons, family and friends.

My favorite master gardener activity is answering horticulture phone questions at the UW Extension Office in the summer. I don't know if I have a favorite gardening activity because I am an eclectic gardener and enjoy doing a variety of activities. In the summer the vegetable/fruit garden takes a lot of time, but if managed well, reciprocates with wonderful produce. I have a good amount of perennials which also require attention.

I would love to learn more about how to conserve resources in our own backyards, by good water management, weed prevention, low maintenance techniques and planting the right plants for the soil type we have. As one gets older we look for ways to make gardening jobs easier, if that is possible.

My greatest achievement has been becoming president of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. It involved a lot of responsibility, but also opened doors to opportunities I might not have had otherwise. It required improved communication skills both in writing and speaking to audiences. Attendance at state, regional and national conventions enabled me to meet people from many parts of the United States and other countries.



by Jess Wickland