



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Nancy Goodman Class of 2018

I always remember there being a garden in our yard when I was growing up. I don't remember helping much with those gardens! The first job I had when I turned 16 was working for Mrs. Pansy at Pansy's Nursery in Neenah. The job only lasted as long as the spring transplanting season, but Mrs. Pansy taught me well. I still use her techniques when planting my tomatoes every spring.

While attending college to become a teacher, I had many plants in my dorm room. When going home from Minnesota for longer breaks, there was always the challenge of how to keep all those plants happy for a couple of weeks. I watered them really well, taped plastic all around the shelving unit and hoped for the best. Most of them fared quite well. When my husband and I married, we each had about 100



houseplants. We used one of the extra bedrooms in our apartment as our "greenhouse".

I have loved playing and digging in the soil for as long as I've been a home-owner. I find the time spent outside to be very relaxing! Since I've been retired for the past three years, my gardens have multiplied in number and in the amount of yard being used.. My hubby and I will often extend an entire bed by a foot or more...just because I need more space for new purchases! This summer when we added another smallish raised veggie garden, my 5-year-old grandson said, "Nani, that was not a good idea. It's taking up some of my play space." Oops! It's a good thing he doesn't know about my plans for the butterfly garden and the rest of the yard!



My favorite gardening tool is my Little Red Wagon. Really! I load that thing up with tools, plants, whatever I need and pull it all over the yard. My next favorite is my Fiskars PowerGear Bypass Pruner. I used

one at class one night and came home and ordered it immediately. It is the best tool for my arthritic hands.

The MOST challenging garden project that I have worked on is keeping our new black Lab puppy out of my gardens! Ugh! We've only had her about 2 weeks and the struggle is real! She thinks it's ok to play in the garden and pull the plant tags



out, steal the mulch and leave deposits. I need to get her trained now because I don't want her in there next spring when she is much bigger and the plants are emerging.

My favorite gardens are cottage style perennial beds. I have a newer hosta garden in the shady part of the backyard along with an iris, daylily, columbine, and other perennials bed in the sunny area. I'm hoping to expand the gardens in the backyard next year. I also hope to have a small greenhouse back there. Someday! In the front, I have more irises, succulents, and perennials plus my favorite: a shady garden filled with hucheras and hostas. After taking my classes, I know I have a lot of work to do to make these gardens look better and perform better.

I was a Lutheran grade school teacher for 23 years teaching every grade from kindergarten through eighth grade at some point. Most of my years were spent with fifth graders and I finished up by teaching kindergarteners. My hope is to be able to use my experience in the classroom and do some educational type of volunteer work through Master Gardeners.

The most important parts of my life are my faith in Christ my Savior, and my family. I try to let my faith shine in all that I do. My hubby, Mark, and I will be married for 40 years in 2019. That time has certainly flown by very rapidly. We have been



blessed with two amazing daughters: Kristy is a teacher and lives in Shanghai, China. She loves to travel and scuba dives every chance that she gets. Allie is our other daughter. She is the mother of our two awesome grandsons, Easton and Blake. Her family lives just a few minutes away from us, and we spend a lot of time with the boys. We have two black

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Labrador Retrievers. Lucy is our old girl who had to retire from pheasant hunting this fall and the new puppy is Rosie.. She was Mark's birthday present and rode home on my lap all the way from Minnesota.

Mark is a terrific helper with the gardens. He does way more weeding than I do and he does the majority of the heavy duty projects: lugging giant bags of soil or mulch, and dumping the weed barrels at the city garage. He often, very willing, digs holes for my new found treasures!

Besides gardening, we enjoy spending time at our camper. We have a fifth-wheel "glamper" permanently parked near Wautoma at Camp Phillip. We don't own a vehicle large enough to pull it, so it is permanently there! I've started a few smaller gardens at our campsite, too. It's very different working in the sandy soil there as compared to the clay soil we have in Neenah. Mark and I have traveled quite a bit since we've been married. We tried to get our daughters into all 50 states before they graduated from school. We almost made it! We each have about five or six states to see yet. One year we took them to Alaska for

spring break! Mark and I fell in love with Hawaii when my parents took the whole family there for their 50th wedding anniversary in 2004. We have been there thirteen times now and our very favorite island is Kauai. In 2017 we were blessed to spend most of January on the island and then return with our daughter and grandson, Easton, in August for a few weeks. We've also taken a few trips to the Caribbean visiting Aruba, Grand Cayman and St. Croix. Someday I hope to travel to Cuba, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, and many other places in the Caribbean.

In my free time I love to watch my grandsons, sew, quilt, practice photography, read and bake. A funny thing about me that not many people know: I kissed a giant string ray while on a trip to Grand Cayman. That mama was as large as my kitchen table and I hope to do it again someday! ;)

Here's one of my very favorite Bible passages: *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philipians 4:4*