GROWING TRADITION

Old World nurtures heirloom gardens

BY MARCIA CARMICHAEL
Old World Wisconsin historical gardener

EAGLE — Have you ever longed to walk the fragrant paths of history? Or thought about immigrants coming to America, bringing their most treasured seeds and plants with them so they might create gardens reminiscent of their homeland? Are you interested in growing more heirlooms in your garden?

You may want to put Old World Wisconsin on your places-to-visit list. Old World Wisconsin is the Wisconsin Historical Society’s largest living history museum situated on 600 acres of lovely rolling Kettle Moraine countryside. The large collection of late 19th and early 20th century homes, barns and businesses gathered from around the state and carefully preserved are fascinating, and the heritage breed animals tended there are fabulous.

But my heart is in the more than two dozen heirloom gardens you will find when you visit. Based on extensive research, and working with a team of dedicated volunteer gardeners and the support of museum staff, we create and maintain gardens that are historically accurate in design and the selection of plants, carefully representing the time period and ethnicity of the sites they complement. Here you have the opportunity to meet hundreds of varieties of heirloom plants.

If you come to Old World Wisconsin, be sure to visit our Life on the Farms area that includes an 1860s German immigrant farm. Seventy-two individual beds, showcasing a wide selection of vegetables, herbs and flowers, fill the entire front yard. Take note of the charming fences at the 1860s and 1870s German farms. Who would have thought that buckthorn could be so useful?

In our Scandinavian Homesteads area the 1860s Norwegian immigrant farm garden will feature a collection of dye plants, a stand of the herb Angelica and numerous small fruits.

Don’t miss our 1880s Yankee farm in the Crossroads Village area. In the kitchen garden, try your hand using some of our historical garden tools. My favorite is the grub hoe, but you may prefer a goose neck, Warren or wheel hoe.

Old World Wisconsin gardeners invite you to immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, flavors, fragrances and textures of history. The site is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Go online to oldworldwisconsin.org for more information.

For information on supporting Old World Wisconsin, contact Old World Foundation at 262-594-2922 or go online to oldworldfoundation.org.
Sunday, June 3
Peter Charles, June 3, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Ye Olde Hotel, 6070 N. Railroad St., Lyons.
Kevin Kennedy, June 3, noon to 3 p.m., The Ridge, W4240 Wisconsin Highway 50, Lake Geneva.
Mike Stone Trio, June 3, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., The Waterfront Patio, The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana.

Wednesday, June 6
Tom Stanfield, June 6, 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Bar West, The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana.

Concerts in the Park: Conway Family Band, June 6, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Central Park Pavilion, 310 N. Main St., Edgerton.

Thursday, June 7
Living Word Worship, June 7, 7 p.m., Phoenix Park Bandshell, 111 E. Wisconsin St., Delavan.
Live jazz music, June 7, 6 p.m. to close, Hilltop International Pub, 121 E. Milwaukee St., Janesville. 608-247-4340

Friday, June 8
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Summer Concert Series features FBI & the Untouchables, June 8, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Wyman Pedestrian Mall, just off Main Street next to Andersen Library, Whitewater. Free parking in lots 1 and 12.
Live jazz music, June 8, 6 p.m. to close, Hilltop International Pub, 121 E. Milwaukee St., Janesville. 608-247-4340
"That Sax Guy" Brian Fiction, June 8, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Frontier Dining Room, Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St., Delavan.
Michelle Smith, June 8, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Lobby Bar, Grand Geneva Resort, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva.
Live music, June 8, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Bragil Coffee House & Wine Bar, 107 N. Walworth Ave., Williams Bay. 262-686-8016
David Harlen, June 8, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., The Ridge, W4240 Wisconsin Highway 50, Lake Geneva. theridgegeneva.com

Saturday, June 9
Kaia Fowler, June 9, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., The Coffeehouse at Chestnut & Pine, 492 N. Pine St., Burlington. 262-691-4394, burlingtoncoffeehouse.com
Switchtrack Alley Band, June 9, 8 p.m., Turtle Tap, 1344 E. Grand Ave., Beloit.
Live blues music, June 9, 6 p.m. to close, Hilltop International Pub, 121 E. Walworth Ave., Williams Bay. 608-247-4340
Terry Sweet, June 9, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Frontier Restaurant, Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St., Delavan.

Word: Song and Spoken Open Mic, June 9, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Bragil Coffee House & Wine Bar, 107 N. Walworth Ave., Williams Bay. 262-686-8016
Sam Llanas, June 9, 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Cafe Carpe, 18 S. Water St. West, Fort Atkinson. Reservations suggested. 920-563-9391, cafecarpe.com

Take It Easy: A Tribute to the Eagles, June 9, 7 p.m., Phoenix Park Bandshell, 111 E. Wisconsin St., Delavan.
David Harlen, June 9, noon to 3 p.m., and Don Wiggles, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., The Ridge, W4240 Wisconsin Highway 50, Lake Geneva.

Simple, June 9, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Delavan Lake Store, 2001 N. Shore Drive, Delavan.
Chad Hell, June 9, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Studio Winery, 401 Sheridan Springs Road, Lake Geneva. 262-348-9100, studiowinery.com
Tom Stanfield, June 9, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in 240 West and 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in Bar West, The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana

Triple D, June 9, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., The Waterfront, The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana.