

Member Spotlight: Kim Espinosa



Kim Espinosa's life revolves around three things: family, gardening, and community service. Spend even a short amount of time talking with her and those themes naturally weave through nearly every story she tells.

Like many friendships and opportunities in life, Kim's connection to the Wolfeboro Garden Club began through people. In 2005, while raising her family as a homeschooling mom and looking to connect with others who shared

similar interests, she became involved in the community through the Hospital Street Fair garden tent. It was there that she met Garden Club member Bobbie Stave, who encouraged Kim to attend a meeting. She did, and quickly found herself welcomed by members including Trish, Inger, and Carol.

Back then, meetings featured guest speakers followed by sit-down luncheons and conversation. While some things have changed over the years, Kim feels the heart of the Garden Club remains the same: friendships, camaraderie, and people who genuinely enjoy being together.

Gardening has deep roots in Kim's life. Her love of plants began with her paternal grandfather, whom she remembers fondly as "the best person ever." An only child and their only grandchild, Kim treasured visits to her grandparents' home in Massachusetts, where she spent time beside her grandfather in his perennial rock garden, often sharing ice cream sandwiches together after working outdoors.

Growing up on a dirt road in Milton, New Hampshire, without even a telephone, Kim remembers a childhood centered around the outdoors and simple living. Her family kept pigs, goats, and chickens, and her parents gardened extensively, growing vegetables that were canned and frozen for the family. Kim affectionately refers to her late mother as "Mother Earth."

As life became busier with family, grandchildren, travel, and running a business, Kim stepped away from the Garden Club for a period of time. She and her husband Tom owned and operated the Irving gas station and repair shop in Wolfeboro for many years, with Kim handling the bookkeeping while Tom managed the garage operations.

Even during those busy years, Kim continued deepening her knowledge of gardening, eventually becoming a New Hampshire Master Gardener before later returning to the

Garden Club, where she was greeted by many familiar faces and quickly became involved again. She first helped with Programs before eventually stepping into the role of president. Along the way, she also served as chair of the Beautification Committee and redesigned the Clark Park Historical Garden into the space visitors enjoy today.

Outside the Garden Club, volunteering and community involvement have long been important parts of Kim's life. Over the years she has served in Cub Scouts as a Den Leader, Cub Master, and Unit Commissioner, volunteered as a driver for Caregivers, and remained active in local recreational organizations. She and Tom have long been involved with the Wolfeboro Snowmobile Club, where Kim once served as vice president, and the Land Share Riders ATV Club, she is the secretary / treasurer. These clubs have become an important part of their family life.

While Kim and Tom spent many years living and working in Wolfeboro, they now enjoy life just over the New Hampshire border in Parsonfield, Maine, where they live in an old New Englander on a few quiet acres. Kim appreciates the peace, seclusion, and slower pace of being off the beaten path, though her connections to Wolfeboro and the Garden Club community remain deep.

Today, Kim especially enjoys growing ornamental perennials, leaning toward native plants, along with rhubarb, asparagus, tomatoes, and peas. She enjoys collecting and growing plants from seed and is excited to assemble a greenhouse kit so she can continue experimenting and growing even more plants.

In addition to her own gardening projects, Kim also works a couple of days each week at Sias Farm Garden Center. She enjoys talking with customers, helping them solve gardening problems, and learning from their experiences as well. Her gardening interests often overlap with other hobbies, including cooking, preserving, and making homemade wines from apples, elderberries, and strawberries.

Rarely still for long, Kim keeps herself busy with the many projects, hobbies, organizations, and family activities that fill her life. Someone who naturally likes things neat, orderly, and organized, she admits life can sometimes feel a little chaotic with so much constantly going on. Gardening, she says, has taught her to let go a little and accept that not everything can be controlled. The garden has become the place where she feels most calm.

During the winter months, that energy shifts indoors. Kim enjoys reading paper books, especially science fiction and horror, and is always ready to tackle another puzzle, particularly if the grandchildren are willing to join in.

To Kim, the most meaningful part of the Wolfeboro Garden Club is not simply the gardens themselves, but the friendships that grow alongside them. She describes those relationships as a continuum, something that deepens and evolves over time, much like a garden itself.

Serving as president during the 2025–26 season has been especially rewarding for Kim as she oversaw committees, projects, board meetings, and many of the meeting programs she helped put in motion before becoming president.

Looking ahead to the 2026–27 season, Kim hopes to continue fostering friendships within the Garden Club, welcoming new members, and encouraging greater involvement throughout the organization. She would also like to strengthen the Garden Club's financial stability so it can continue expanding what it offers both members and the broader community. Just as importantly, she hopes to encourage engaged and dependable future leaders who will continue carrying out the club's longstanding mission: "To encourage an active interest in conservation, and to further the knowledge of beautifying town and home, as well as to increase, through gardening, the Joy of Life."

Having recently celebrated 42 years of marriage, Kim has built a life centered around family, community, and the outdoors. Between children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, gardening, clubs, projects, and three energetic Shelties, life remains full, busy, and deeply connected to the people and places she loves.

Through every season of life, Kim continues to bring that same energy, warmth, and sense of connection to the Wolfeboro Garden Club community.

One of Kim's favorite moments in the garden comes after a long New England winter, when the plants return strong and full of promise for what lies ahead. In many ways, that same sense of optimism and renewal is what Kim hopes members will continue to find in both their own gardens and the Garden Club community in the year ahead.