



Master Gardener Update February 2017

In This Issue

[Perspicacity](#)

[Small Fruits: Planting,
Care and Maintenance](#)

[Garden Expo](#)

[RBG Evening Garden
Seminar: Selecting a Tree
for Your Home Landscape](#)

[Rock County MGV Grant
Deadline Extended](#)

[Pollinator Project Work
Groups](#)

[February Calendar](#)

[Tip of the Month](#)

Quick Links

[UW-Extension Rock County
Website](#)

[Rotary Botanical Gardens](#)

[Garden Expo](#)

[RPMGA Blogspot](#)

Hello! For those of you who I haven't met yet, I am Nick Baker, the Rock County Agriculture Agent. With Christy's departure for a new position I will be doing my best to fill in and assist you with any horticulture, plant, and garden questions you might have.

I have been the Agriculture Agent in Rock County for almost three years now and prior to working for Extension spent nine years with the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center running a grass and forage breeding program. I have extensive knowledge of native grasses and pollinator projects. I have also spent my entire life gardening and have some knowledge in fruit and vegetable production as well.

I may not be the Horticulture expert that Christy was, however, I will do my best to answer any questions you might have. I will try to answer questions in a timely manner as well as direct you to the state specialist or other professional resources that are experts in the area you are working on. I look forward to meeting and working with you all throughout this transitional period.

Nick Baker

PERSPICACITY

"There is a privacy about winter which no other season gives you ... Only in winter... can you have longer, quiet stretches when you can savor belonging to yourself."

-Ruth Stout

How to Have a Green Thumb without an Aching Back



Small Fruits: Planting, Care and Maintenance

Janesville WI

February 3, 2017

5:30 p.m.



UW-Extension Rock County Ag Agent, Nick Baker, will present a talk on planting, care and maintenance of small fruits. This class will be held in the Courthouse Conference Center at the Rock County Courthouse.

Small fruits are those which are small but highly productive such as strawberries, red raspberries, currants, gooseberries, grapes, and elderberries. Small fruits are well suited to the small garden or yard.

This is a Master Gardener approved continuing education program which will award 1 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) per hour of participation.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

WPT, WHA-TV and UW-Extension's Garden Expo

Exhibition Hall of the Alliant Energy Center

Madison WI

February 10-12, 2017



Sponsored by Wisconsin Public Television, Friends of WHA-TV, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Team, this event draws nearly 16,000 people to view 400 booths provided by numerous exhibitors over 100,000 square-feet. Certified MGVs will assist UW-Extension specialists and agents in answering questions in the UW-Extension booth.

Numerous educational seminars, demonstrations, and workshops are offered on a variety of horticultural topics. Hours are Friday 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., and Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. An admission fee is charged for this fundraiser to support Wisconsin Public TV programming. For more information visit the [Garden Expo website](#).

Garden Expo seminars of special interest to the Pollinator Project in Rock County:

Monarch Butterflies, Gae Bergmann, Friday at 5:00 p.m.

Marvelous Monarch Butterflies, Judith Kesser, Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Good Bugs in the Backyard, PJ Liesch, Saturday at 1:15 p.m.

Gardening for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects, Allen Pyle, Saturday at 2:15 p.m.

Basic Beekeeping, John Holzwart, Saturday at 4:45 p.m.

Gardening for Pollinators in Urban Spaces, Benjamin Futa, Sunday at 11:45 a.m.

There is no charge for the seminars and no registration needed, but seating may be limited.

Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar: Selecting a Tree for Your Home Landscape

Janesville WI

Thursday, February 23, 2017

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Ethan Lee, Parks & Forestry Coordinator for the City of Janesville, will talk about "Selecting a Tree for your Home Landscape." The presentation will introduce you to a wide variety of home landscape trees, from the smallest ornamental trees to the largest shade trees. Ethan will focus on placing the right tree in the right location and what factors property owners should be considering when they are selecting or planting trees. You will also receive a list of replacements for ash trees lost to the emerald ash borer.

Cost is \$5 for non-members, \$3 for RBG Friends members, no registration required.

See the Rotary Botanical Gardens website for more information: [RBG Evening Garden Seminars](#).

Rock County MGV Grant Deadline Extended

Thanks to the generous donation of an MGV, the Rock County UW-Extension office has funds available to purchase supplies for MGV-led education programs. Any currently certified Rock County MGV can apply, but the money can only be used for supplies, materials, and equipment. Additional requirements:

- Your project must be located within Rock County and benefit the citizens of Rock County
- Your project must include at least one aspect of community education - this could be in the form of plant identification tags, giving presentations, writing an article, etc.
- You must complete and submit the mini-grant application form.
- You'll have to submit an end-of-year report on how your funds were utilized.

Complete the mini-grant application and submit it to the Extension office. The Rock County UW-Extension staff will purchase items through the University Purchasing System. We have a good sum of money but it has to be used before the fiscal year ends (end of June) - so dream big and apply today!

[Mini Grant Application](#)

Volunteer Opportunity: Pollinator Project Work Groups Forming Now

Have you heard? RPMGA is starting a major, multi-year project to help educate folks in Rock County about our threatened pollinators and how individuals can make a difference. There will be lots of different kinds of volunteer opportunities with the project, but right now we're forming a couple working groups to tackle some specific tasks.

One group will focus on planning demonstration gardens. We have four locations for 2017, and need to put together a basic plan for their size, plants to include, water features, shelters for the pollinators, signs needed, maintenance, funding, etc. In future years, we hope to expand the number of demonstration gardens and begin to use them as outdoor classrooms for the pollinator project.

A second group will tackle a plan for pollinator project tables at community events such as farmers markets, earth day celebrations, 4H Fair, and others. The group will decide what message to focus on in 2017, what resources and materials to provide for various age groups, giveaways, simple projects that could be done at the table with kids, etc. They'll identify events we can target for a presence. And they'll put together a "kit" of supplies and materials for the table that any MGV can check out from the Extension office and return after an event.

If you'd like to be part of either of these groups, please contact Mary Kay Thompson by email at mastergardenermary@gmail.com, or by phone at 608-322-4800. The time you put in counts as volunteer hours for MGV recertification.

February Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Garden Expo details	11 Garden Expo details
12 Garden Expo details	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 RBG Evening Seminar- Selecting a Tree details	24	25
26	27	28	31			

Tip of the Month

February is a great time to get your trees and shrubs ready for spring:

- Prune trees and shrubs, both ornamentals and fruit
- Check evergreens for signs of desiccation
- Rejuvenate holly bushes with a hard pruning
- Check plants and trees for animal damage

Please send your ideas for **Tip of the Month** to kim.mork@ces.uwex.edu.

If it's a quote, please cite the author. If it's yours, let me know!

Gardening tips are very welcome!!