



President's Corner

by *Diane Thieme*

As I write this, snow is falling onto the maple leaves that have yet to be raked from my yard. The garden is only partially put to bed, and the rose cones aren't even out of storage. It is a time of transition. Fall is slowly creeping toward winter and the holiday season. The sunny crisp fall days are fading to dreary gray winter days. Daylight is growing shorter, plants are sliding into dormancy, and I am beginning to shift into the cocooning mode of winter.

This is also a time of transition for SEWMGV. President Kris Jensen and Board Chairman Fred Redlinger have finished their terms in office. Thank you to both for your many positive contributions and dedicated service. Kris will become chairwoman of the Leadership Committee. Fred will get a break from all the budget work and a chance to relax a little more. A new class of 140+ "Newbies" will soon be completing their classroom phase of certification and will be moving into the volunteering phase. My hope is the enthusiasm they displayed during my visits to their classes will carry over into future leadership roles. I hope to see them attending business meetings, serving on committees, working at the

Plant Sale events, and volunteering for one or more of our many approved gardens and projects.

There will also be transitions brought about by the ongoing construction projects surrounding the Milwaukee County UW Extension offices. The freeway work, Watertown Plank Rd. work, and ramp closings have made use of that building impractical for our many purposes. Access is difficult and parking is extremely limited. Therefore, business meetings and programs will be shifted to Boerner Botanical Gardens or other sites. Read ListServe announcements closely for locations. Business meetings will continue to be held the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of May. The May meeting will be held the third Wednesday due to Plant Sale week work.

The Plant Sale Committee has taken transitioning to the extreme! The "Dig Team" has already transplanted hundreds of donated plants to the newly enlarged Eble vegetable garden beds. The plants have been heeled in for the winter. In spring, training "Pot-A-Thons" will be held on the

grounds to prepare the plants for the annual Plant Sale. Remember that the sale needs about 15,000 plants to be a successful fundraiser. Contact Patty Witt if you or someone you know has plants to donate. We are in need of new donor gardens. Check the webpage for the lists of encouraged and discouraged plants.

The Finance Committee has met several times since October, and the 2014 budget has been developed and approved. Some gardens have been dropped for various reasons and a moratorium has been placed on new gardens at this time. The committee struggled with the budget due to several missing or incomplete reports from garden chairs. A few chairs have been very lax with submitting expense receipts in a timely manner. Policies for reimbursement are being reviewed and revised so that the budget process will be more precise. These policy tweaks will be given and explained to all garden chairs at the Garden Chair Forum in March.

Lastly, thank you to all of you for the many, many hours of volunteering and service this year. I hope that 2013 has been a great year for you, and that 2014 proves to be an even better one.

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Special points of interest:

- Change in location for meetings none at Milwaukee UWEX offices
- Volunteer Opportunity Fair in January
- Membership Dues were due November 1st
- Plant Sale Starts now

Lifelong Gardening Project Highlights *by MGV Kris Jensen, 2013 President*

Each year, our SEWMG group needs to provide a summary to the state about our local organization's activities. The project highlighted in the 2013 report was the LifeLong Gardening Project. You may find this of interest as you search for volunteer service opportunities. The committee meets on a near-monthly basis.

SEWMG's LifeLong Gardening Project continues to grow. Twelve MGVs were active this year, providing information on enabling tools and gardening techniques to the public through displays, demonstrations, and presentations. Their presentations and displays are often requested by senior

groups and health and wellness fairs, where they are very popular with the attendees. Demonstrations of extended reach and back saving tools, and hand tools adapted for those with arthritis and weakened grip elicit the most interest.

The project has accumulated nearly 150 gardening implements for use in displays and demonstrations, including a large donation of tools from the UW Hancock Agricultural Research Station in 2009. In subsequent years, MGVs have solicited and received donations from tool manufacturers, garden tool suppliers, and local garden centers. This year a wheelchair accessible

portable raised planting bed was donated to the project. It was included in the UW Extension's State Fair display, along with many vertical gardening ideas.

The group reached more than 65,000 people in 2013 with their displays at garden tours, health and wellness fairs, the SEWMG yearly plant sale, Allen Centennial Gardens, Wisconsin State Fair and Milwaukee County Fair, and demonstrations and presentations for garden clubs, senior groups, and plant societies. A permanent demonstration garden is in the planning stage.

Garden Support Committee Update

By MGVs Patty Witt & Ken Loeffel Garden Support Committee Co-Chairs

Volunteer Opportunity Fair

On Saturday, January 18th, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the Garden Support Committee will once again sponsor the Volunteer Opportunity Fair. This is an event for our new Master Gardeners in Training as well as any of our seasoned Master Gardeners to come and check out the approximately forty plus venues to earn your 24 required volunteer hours. This event will be held at the **Boerner Botanical Gardens Education and Visitors Building**. This is located at 9400 Boerner Drive (Just West of S 92nd St in Hales Corners.)

All Chairpersons of Garden Projects and other MGV Projects have been invited to participate by setting up a display. Chairpersons will bring information about their garden or project and a sign-up sheet. The displays will be arranged by geographic location of the gardens/projects i.e. Southern Milwaukee County, Northern Milwaukee County, Waukesha County, etc. in order to aid you in finding places near your home. **The displays will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

We will have refreshments and goodies (breakfast type) for your enjoyment. Yum!!

Plus a Speaker

At 11:00 a.m. on the same day, the In-House Education Committee is planning an educational program. The speaker is Chris Miracle, Landscape Architect at LandWorks in Sussex, WI. His topic will be "**Landscape Design Insights.**" This program will be about one hour plus time for questions. This program will count towards your education hours.

There will be a separate registration for this educational program portion of this event. See the In-House Education article on page 4. If garden chairs and/or participants at the Volunteer Fair wish to attend the program, they must register with the In-House Education Committee.

Garden Support Committee Meeting

We always welcome MGVs to join us at our Garden Support Committee meetings. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8th,

2014, immediately following the SEWMG Business Meeting on that day. You will be reminded of this meeting via the UWEX ListServe e-mail.

Garden Chair Forum

On March 20th, 2014, The Garden Support Committee will sponsor a **Garden Chair Forum**. This event is for the chairs of all Approved Gardens. More details to follow in the Mar/Apr Newsletter.

Please contact Patty Witt or Ken Loeffel with any ideas or comments.



News from the Extension Offices *by Sharon Morrisey, UWEX-Milwaukee Consumer Hort. Agent & Ann Wied, UWEX-Waukesha Consumer Hort. Educator*

Due to road construction on Watertown Plank Road, all meetings and some programs will be held on the Lower Level of the Education and Visitors' Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens unless indicated otherwise and until further notice. Be sure to carefully check the location of any program or meeting you plan to attend.

Volunteer Celebration 2014

Save the evening of Wednesday, March 12th for the 2014 Volunteer Graduation Celebration. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments and a garden-related, hands-on activity. The program will start at 7:00 p.m. when the MGV trainees from the fall class of 2012 will at last receive their certificates and badges. Dozens of other awards for service to SEWMG and UWEX in 2013 will also be presented.

Timesheets Revised for 2014

The new Excel version of the Volunteer Service timesheet developed by MGV Judy Williamson was a huge success. The majority of SEWMGs successfully used it to report their hours for 2013. After a review that identified a couple of ways it could be revised, the Timesheet version 2.0 is now available at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents/>.

Please use this to report all hours from September 15th, 2013 through September 15th, 2014. The file includes a tab for volunteer hours, another for continuing education and a third for a worksheet you can use to tally your hours before entering them onto the timesheet if this is more convenient for you. There is also an alphabetical listing that tells you where to report popular volunteer activities on the timesheet. For technical assistance and questions, feel free to contact MGV Susan McDonell.

Local Level 2 Training for SEWMGs

"Landscape and Garden Design" is the topic for this year's SEWMG Level 2 Training. Dates are tentatively set for

Thursday evenings from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for four weeks beginning March 27th. Sessions will be held at Boerner Botanical Gardens in the Multi-media room on the lower level. This course will be open to all certified MGVs and MGVs-in-training from the fall 2013 Level 1 Training course. Registration information will be sent via the ListServe and mailed to those without e-mail.

Statewide Level 2 Training

"Branching Out" is the title of this year's Wisconsin MGV Level 2 Training about trees and shrubs. The course is open to all Wisconsin MGVs who are certified or have taken Level 1 Training within the last year. The course consists of on-line presentations to view on your own prior to the scheduled Q & A sessions which are conducted as live, interactive webinars. Webinars are held from 10:00 a.m. - noon on Tuesdays March 25th, April 1st, 8th and 15th. Webinars may also be viewed at a later date if you are unable to participate live. Registration information will be sent by the State MGV program via e-mail. You may participate in both local and statewide Level 2 Trainings.

Two Speakers' Workshops for 2014

The annual Speakers' Workshop for MGVs who wish to make educational presentations for volunteer service is scheduled for Saturday, February 1st from 9:30 a.m. - noon at Boerner Botanical Gardens on the Lower Level. This session is not mandatory for MGV speakers but has been reported to be very helpful by participants in previous years. We will discuss pointers for being a good speaker, scheduling presentations, the list of presentation topics available already, preparation and requesting hand-outs. We will also cover the operation of the laptop and projector you can borrow from Milwaukee County UWEX.

Basics of Using PowerPoint

This year for the first time there will be

a second session about the basics of using PowerPoint to create new presentations or to revise existing ones on Saturday, February 15th from 9:30 a.m. - noon also at Boerner on the Lower Level. Registration is open to all SEWMGs.

Register for these sessions by e-mailing Sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex.edu. Include your full name and phone number. Be sure to indicate whether you want to attend the Speakers' Workshop or the PowerPoint Workshop or both. In case of inclement weather, you will be notified by e-mail and phone of session cancellation.

Realtors' Home and Garden Show Display

The Educational Focus for 2014 will be backyard fruit production. Our display, presentation and brochure for the SEWMG's booth at the Home and Garden Show will be aimed at helping people learn how to improve their diet by eating more fresh fruits and

how to grow some of them in their own backyard. This important event for SEWMGs is being held from March 21st - 30th at the Wisconsin State Fair Expo Center. MGV Faouzi Kablaoui will be scheduling

volunteers via a ListServe message or call him if you do not have e-mail.

We will need a team of volunteers to work together to design a booth display about the topic. This is a very creative process that can really have an impact on show goers and also people wherever the display is set-up over the years. Let me know if you are interested in helping or have booth ideas. We will have a meeting in early January to begin the process. Watch for the meeting announcement or contact Sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex.edu if interested.

Due to road construction on Watertown Plank Road, all meetings and some programs will be held on the Lower Level of the Education and Visitors' Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens unless indicated otherwise.

In-House Education

by Rita Piper, Chair

The In-House Education Committee is happy to report that we have topics and speakers chosen through fall of 2014. Our committee made the choices after listening to YOU, our SEWMG members. Thanks so much to those of you who either e-mailed suggestions to us or completed the survey at the last education program.

One of the goals of the committee is to schedule programs at times and locations convenient to our members. Since the Extension parking lot and access roads are under construction, programs will be scheduled throughout Milwaukee and Waukesha County as we find suitable venues. Due to the number of MGVs who work, the majority of programs will be scheduled either on Saturday morning or Monday through Thursday evenings.

Here is the program lineup for 2014:

Saturday, January 18th, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: "Landscape Design Insights" with Chris Miracle, Professional Landscape Architect from LandWorks Inc. in Sussex.

Location: Boerner Botanical Gardens after the Volunteer Opportunity Fair.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/HV9H3XD

Saturday, February 15th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: "Vertical Gardening," Mark Dwyer, Rotary Gardens.

Location: New Berlin Library, 15105 W. Library Lane.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/XVZTBJ3

March: No In-House programs due to the MGV Level 2 Training and the Volunteer Celebration.

Saturday, April 26th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m: Presentation and Tour of the City of Milwaukee Greenhouses and Nursery, Todd Statzer, Nursery and Greenhouse Manager, Franklin, WI. (limited to two groups of 30 each.)

May, June, July, and August: No formal in-house education programs due to Pot-A-Thons, Plant Sale, and volunteer obligations.

September: (date to be determined) "Roof Top Gardening," Christopher Schultz, MMSD

Location: To be determined (Northside or Waukesha County.)

Saturday, October 18th: (Time to be determined) "Slow Food Movement," Martha Davis Kipcak.

November: To be determined.

The In-House Education Committee wants to announce an exciting change...

For 2014, we are moving to electronic registration.

How does it work?

1. In the newsletter and program announcement e-mails, we will insert a link. Here is the link for the January program registration: www.surveymonkey.com/s/HV9H3XD
1. Click on the link and it will open to the registration survey.
2. Type in your name and e-mail address, then click DONE! It couldn't be easier. 1, 2, 3, done! You must click DONE in order to complete the registration process.
3. If two people using the same e-mail address are registering, please register both at the same time. The screen shot below is exactly what you will see when you register online.

SEWMG January Educational Program: Landscape Design Insights 1/18/14 To register, please answer these 3 questions, then click DONE. If two people are using the same email address, register both at the same time.

*1. What is your last name?

*2. What is your first name?

*3. At what email address would you like to be contacted?

4. If you have a second person using the same email address, register her/him now. What is your first name?

5. (For second registrant) Last name

Done

Powered by SurveyMonkey
Create an account or log in to save your progress

Electronic Registration Frequently Asked Questions

What about those of us without computer access? We realize that there are a handful of MGVs who do not have computers. **Those without computers can still register by**

telephone by calling Judy Williamson at 262-691-9391.

Why are we moving to electronic registration?

In short, electronic registration is more accurate and easy to use. Instead of the program committee receiving over 100 registration e-mails for each program, which might be lost or not transferred to the list, the committee can just log into SurveyMonkey to download a master excel list showing the names and e-mails of all registrants. Electronic surveys are more accurate and a timesaver.

What if I forget that I registered? Using this system, we will automatically send a confirmation e-mail a week before the program.

What if the program is full? We will start a waiting list and alert you that you have been placed on the list.

Other advantages:

Survey after each program: Our committee wants to ensure that our programs and speakers meet your needs. Therefore, everyone who registers will receive an electronic survey after the session, asking for your feedback.

Annual Surveys: We will send a survey to all MGVs asking for your recommendations for topics and speakers. This is your organization and we truly value your input.

We realize that change is difficult, so please be patient with the new system!

In-House Education Committee

Carolyn Blackwood
Mary Mindham
Joy Towell
Judy Williamson
Rita Piper, Chairperson
piperz2@sbcglobal.net

Membership Essentials

by MGV Patty Witt Membership Chair

This is a reminder that your 2014 membership dues are now PAST DUE. As of the date of this writing, 300+ members have paid their dues - THANK YOU. That leaves at least 220 who have not. The Holidays are coming and we all have many tasks to complete before the start of the new year, but please take a few minutes, write your check and fill out the attached dues application and mail it to the address listed. If your dues are not paid, you will be charged an extra \$5 for bus trips and you won't be invited to the Friday Night Plant Pre-Sale on May 16th, 2014. If you're not sure if you paid your dues, you may contact me at pattywitt8@gmail.com or call 262-797-0719 and I will let you know.

SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, Inc.
Annual Dues Application
2014 DUES

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: [home] _____

Telephone: [cell] _____

e-mail address: _____

New Membership _____ Renewed Membership _____

Please share with us your skills, special talents, or areas of interest

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics/displays | <input type="checkbox"/> Finances/accounting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching/education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project management | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative/support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing & Editing |

Other: _____

SEWMG DUES: \$10.00 PER YEAR

(INCLUDES MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR WIMGA)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SEWMG

PLEASE MAIL TO: SEWMG
P.O. Box 26453
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0453

Dues are payable by November 1st, 2013

Volunteer Opportunities

by Nancy Lehrer, UW-Extension Master Gardener Program Volunteer Coordinator at MCCC

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

Libraries, garden clubs, private companies and several major local events make requests during the year for MGVs to give presentations on gardening. Some topic requests are very specific but usually they are looking for suggestions and willing to take whatever I can find for them. MGVs are contacted through the List-Serve. I will include the event date, time, location and topic in each request. Watch your e-mails for speaking opportunities!

During 2013 our SEWMG members gave:

- ☼ **74 presentations!** What an awesome job for 2013!
- ☼ **46 organizations** contacted me or a MGV to request a presentation. Several garden centers and libraries were looking for weekly or monthly speakers.

- ☼ **22 different topics** were covered, the most requested being perennials

If you have not done a presentation but you would like to learn how, e-mail me with your request to shadow a MGV speaker.

Need more confidence?

Training will help. We have an annual Speakers Workshop: February 1st, 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Boerner Botanical Gardens, lower level. Sharon Morrissey will provide helpful hints for a successful speaking presentation and review the set-up of the laptop and projector. A review of the "program request" form will also be included.

Sharon has also added a second training on February 15th, 9:30 a.m. until 12:00

p.m., at Boerner Botanical Gardens, lower level. Topic will be "Using Power Point for Beginners."

The public is very welcoming and interested in gardening... consider sharing your knowledge!

Volunteer Opportunities (all at Boerner Botanical Gardens, lower level)

Saturday, January 18th Volunteer Opportunity Fair - 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday January 7th Plant Sale Orientation - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 1st Speakers Workshop - 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 15th Using Power Point for Beginners - 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Speaker's Bureau Activity for 2013

74 presentations

46 organizations

22 different topics -- most requested perennials



Welcome to our newly elected Officers and Board Members

Our organization welcomes the 2014 officer team and board members who were elected at the annual meeting on December 4th.

2014 officers include:

- ☼ Diane Thieme, President
- ☼ Pat Adrian, President Elect
- ☼ Lindy Pawlak, Treasurer
- ☼ Linda Ziebell, Secretary

2014 board members include:

- ☼ Cathie Foti, chairman

- ☼ Joy Towell, second-year board member
- ☼ Jeff Trader, first-year board member
- ☼ Betty Polycyn and Carla Magnus, members-at-large

We wish the best for Kris Jensen, outgoing president, and Fred Redlinger, outgoing chairman of the board, and thank them for commitment to SEWMG. No doubt they will continue being active

volunteers.

Each officer and board member has accepted the challenge of contributing her/his time and talents to our organization as a whole. Together, they share their world of experience and dedication with us. The next time you see one of them in action, please say "THANK YOU."

2014 Plant Sale Starts Now! *by Plant Sale Committee*

The kickoff meeting for the 2014 SEWMG Plant Sale will be held on Tuesday January 7th at 6:30 p.m. at Boerner Botanical Gardens in one of the lower level meeting rooms. The Steering Committee will offer an expanded and comprehensive session titled "What Is The Plant Sale?" with a Power Point presentation, samples, and demonstrations designed so that everyone can get a good idea of what work opportunities will be available.

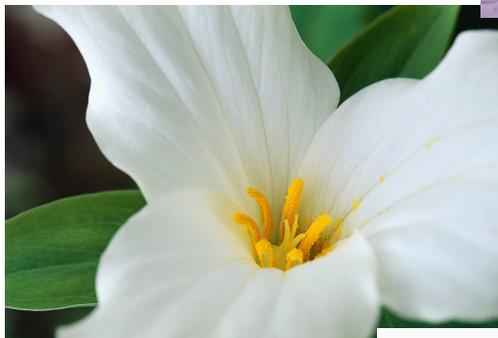
We invite our experienced Pot-A-Thon

volunteers to join in, but especially want to welcome the new class members to this meeting so they can get a very good understanding of what occurs at SEWMG's big and only fund raiser. This is where we raise the money to support all of SEWMG's activities so it is important that it be a continuing huge success.

We will need a lot of help this year because a great many perennial plants are dead or dying in the very cold, snowless climate we are experiencing

this early December, the weather misfortune will provide a great selling opportunity for us.

So come on out on the evening of January 7th and let's get the 2014 SEWMG Plant Sale rolling!





South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners

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Grow with us

Check out our website

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg>

Contact Information

For more information:

Calendar Hotline (MGV Hotline)	414-256-4666
On the Web	http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/
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Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension Office	9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd. Building A, Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Waukesha County Cooperative Extension Office	Waukesha County Administration Center, 515 W. Moreland Road, Room AC-G22, Waukesha, WI 53188

Our Mission Statement

To support and assist UW-Extension in community horticulture programs through volunteerism, education and environmental stewardship.