



President's Corner

by Kris Jensen

Summer is finally upon us, another successful plant sale is over, and work in SEWMG approved gardens is in full swing. We are sharing University research-based horticulture information with the public through many venues and events, including the Wisconsin State Fair, the Heritage Garden and the Butterfly Habitat at the Milwaukee County Zoo, the UW-Extension Hort Help Lines, Life-Long Gardening presentations, our approved gardens, and the many presentations and programs featuring Master Gardener Volunteers.

None of this could happen without your input and participation. I encourage you to attend our monthly business meetings, to bring your ideas and suggestions and add your voice to our planning efforts. Business meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, in the morning. They usually last an hour. Here is the schedule for the rest of this year.

SEWMG Business Meetings

Wednesday, July 10th at the Waukesha County Municipal Building, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, August 14th at Milwaukee County UW-Extension, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, September 11th at the Waukesha County

Municipal Building, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, October 9th at Milwaukee County UW-Extension, 9:30 A.M.

Road Construction Update

Gardening season and road construction (or destruction) coincide in Wisconsin. This year's work on the Zoo Interchange project will create complications for anyone traveling to the Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension buildings (UWEX,) State Fair Park, and our approved gardens in Wauwatosa.

Hwy 100: Some traffic lanes are closed and travel is slower than normal along Hwy 100 north from I-94 through the Bluemound Road, Wisconsin Avenue, Potter Drive, and Watertown Plank Road intersections. Work continues along Bluemound Road and Watertown Plank Road near Hwy 100, so plan extra time for travel in this area.

Greenfield Avenue: The Greenfield Avenue bridge over I-894 is closed. Use I-894, I-94, Hwy 100, 84th Street south of I-94, Lincoln Avenue, and National Avenue to get around the closure. The westbound ramp from southbound I-894 to Greenfield Avenue is

expected to open in mid- to late-July.

Glenview Avenue / 84th Street: From May through August, 84th Street / Glenview Avenue will be under construction from I-94 north through the Wisconsin Avenue intersection. From I-94 to Bluemound Road, 84th Street will remain open while the road is resurfaced and turn lanes are improved. Glenview Avenue from Bluemound Road to just north of Wisconsin Avenue will be reconstructed, with full closure for two months.

You can get the latest information on these and related road construction projects at

<http://projects.511wi.gov/web/zoo-interchange-project/overview>

Safe travels and happy gardening!

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Special points of interest:

- Garden Support Committee Update
- WI MG Annual Conference Registration
- Picnic Information
- Many ways to volunteer

Garden Support Committee Update

by MGVs Mary Thiele & Patty Witt, Garden Support Comm. Chairs

The Garden Support Committee has completed its plan for visiting Approved Master Gardener Project gardens this year. Many approved gardens will be visited during July and the results discussed at a future meeting. Viewing the gardens is always a lovely event for the members of this committee and others who have volunteered to help. Our organization's mission is not only to beautify but also to educate. There is a check list to fill out during the garden visits, but the joy comes from seeing the gardens,

talking to the gardeners and helping them fulfill their dreams.

For the past two years, the committee has organized a Garden Walk to encourage the public to view our gardens and secure additional written horticultural information. This year we planned a fall walk. During our Spring Garden Forum we offered our garden chairs the opportunity to order signs and plant stakes for their approved gardens.

The garden chairs thought the metal

project signs were handsome and just right. So, although we thought we had budgeted enough, our committee had not. Nearly out of funds, the committee decided not to have a garden walk this fall.

We continue to think about how we might help garden chairs and any requests or suggestions are appreciated. We always welcome new MGVs on the committee. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 4th at 9:30 a.m.

Landscape Irrigation—Solution or Problem?

by Ann Wied, Consumer Horticulture Educator/Community Development Educator

Have you ever seen an installed irrigation system watering a lawn or garden in the pouring rain? I have and I bet you have too. I have also noticed more and more installed irrigation systems in landscapes. It seems to be becoming a popular thing to do.

While attending the 2013 Urban Extension Conference in Overland Park, Kansas in early May, I heard a presentation on the topic of "Rethinking Irrigation Water use for Landscapes by Promoting Water Conservation Practices." The presentation was given by an associate professor and extension specialist at Kansas State University in the Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources and was the result of a research project. The presentation focused on installed irrigation systems. Here's some information I want to share with you.

Through a Kansas State University research project they found ...



- ⊗ Automatic irrigation timers use 40 to 50% more water compared to hose-type sprinklers.
- ⊗ Drip irrigation systems used 16% more water compared to hose-type sprinklers.
- ⊗ Billions of gallons of water are wasted due to evapotranspiration, wind, or runoff caused by improper design, installation, maintenance, or scheduling.

Water is wasted due to:

- ⊗ Lack of understanding of plant water use
- ⊗ Poor quality of irrigation system design
- ⊗ Poor quality of irrigation system installation
- ⊗ Improper maintenance of irrigation systems
- ⊗ Lack of awareness regarding the importance of adjusting seasonal runtimes
- ⊗ Lack of knowledge regarding how much water is applied during a watering event
- ⊗ Not using devices now available to save water

If you have an automatic irrigation system, consider conducting an audit of the irrigation system. An audit can identify irrigation component problems, evaluate the system's performance, and help schedule run times. In addition, if the irrigation system does not have "smart climatic controller" or rain shut-off devices, think about adding these to your current irrigation system.

Share this information with your neighbors and family members who have irrigation systems installed in their landscape. It will help conserve water and money.

Compared to hose-type sprinklers, the Kansas State University research project found: automatic irrigation timers use 40 to 50% more water and drip irrigation systems used 16% more water. Billions of gallons of water are wasted due to evapotranspiration, wind, or runoff caused by improper design, installation, maintenance, or scheduling.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Summer Time is here! Remember to take the time to enjoy your gardens... so grab your newsletter, find a comfortable patio chair and take a moment to read the Good Earth Newsletter! Summer is also a great time to complete your 24 volunteer hours and remember to get your 10 continuing education hours too! I have included a review of the continuing education (CE) options.

Acceptable Continuing Education Hours:

- Level 1 or Level 2 Training.
- Any speaker at our SEWMG program meetings (If you are assisting with set-up or clean up, then drive time can be included for your volunteer opportunity hours).
- Any speaker or public radio programs featuring Extension

specialists, WI DNR or other state agencies. This also includes other universities or colleges.

- Any presentation by a Master Gardener; area greenhouses, churches and other organizations are requesting presentations by our wonderful MGCV speakers.
- SEWMG trips to trade shows, conferences and horticultural gardens and nature centers.

You may view DVDs that are made of each Level 1 & 2 class. Come to the MCCE front desk and ask for the DVD. They must be signed out and a \$25.00 check made out to "UWEX" must be left as a deposit. When the DVD is returned, the deposit is returned to you.

Do not include your travel time to and from the event as part of CE

hours, just educational program time.

Volunteer Service Hours:

Staff the Model Back Yard during the **State Fair, August 1st to 11th**. To volunteer please call Faouzi Kablaoui (414-352-6557).

It is never too early to plan your volunteer hours for 2014! The **Milwaukee County Fair** is scheduled for **September 26th to 29th**. Volunteers are needed to staff the MGCV booth, assist Extension staff at various booths and share your gardening expertise with the public. Presentations and demonstrations are needed during the Milwaukee County Fair. Call Nancy if you would like more information (414-256-4661).

In Appreciation of SEWMGs

by Ann Wied, Consumer Horticulture Educator/Community Development Educator

From time to time I like to write a note of appreciation to you, the SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, to call attention to the many ways you have helped me. You have assisted me on numerous projects over the years and I am forever grateful. This year was no exception and I wish to share some projects with you.

In April six master gardeners joined others on a day-long bus trip to Madison. Through the rain, cold, and hail they shared their voice in support of the UW Cooperative Extension programs in Waukesha County. Their support was greatly appreciated.

Two master gardeners helped me get the Waukesha County Community Gardens up and running. Without their help in staking the garden, I cannot imagine how long it would have taken to get



the job done.

In mid-May our office was involved in a neighborhood beautification event "kick-off" in one of Waukesha's central-city neighborhoods. Residents were given the opportunity to purchase annuals at a reduced cost to beautify the neighborhood. One master gardener's willingness to show up at 7:30 a.m. on a Saturday to assist at this event was greatly appreciated. Close to 120 flats were delivered and orders had to be sorted. She was also able to answer gardening questions throughout the morning.

I also receive numerous requests for presentations. When I tell people I cannot do it but a master gardener might be able to assist them with their request, they are very thankful and excited. I have heard back from many people telling me what a great job the master gardeners did with their presentation. Thank you for being so willing to share your gardening

knowledge and enthusiasm with others!

I also want to thank the master gardeners who have helped me with small office projects or small gardening projects. From helping us in the office or roto-tilling a small garden for me in the spring to assisting me with cleaning up a gardening site in the fall, your help enables me to get more things done. I haven't even touched upon your help with our Horticulture Helpline or the amazing demonstration gardens you have located throughout Waukesha County. I could go on and on. And in this climate of tight funding, your financial donation for my horticulture programming efforts has allowed me to do more with less.

So... if I haven't recently said "thank you" for all that you do for me, let it be said now! With a grateful heart, thank you! ☺

Perennial Pandemonium: The SEWMG Plant Sale

as seen through the eyes of Sue Ratkowski MGV

It's 6:10 a.m. Saturday May 18th and I'm driving to State Fair Park. There is hardly any traffic but I hit every red light there is on the way. I note that even Construction Zones don't have any workers at them yet. Once I finally get there, I walk into the DNR area and watch others arrive. I feel electricity in the air signaling something big is going to happen. The question of the day: What color is the t-shirt going to be this year? Purple!

I take a tour of the plants and the layout to make sure I know where everything is. This year we had moved everything out into the main aisle. Even the Natives have been relocated so the sale area has a smooth flow around the loop. I see all those plants lined up in alphabetical order. It breaks my heart when I hear other master gardeners complain about the plants we have. Yes, numbers are low; varieties are down in some areas. But, I want to say we plant gatherers strived so hard to get salable specimens especially during this difficult weather season. So I move to a different area, hoping to hear more positive comments, and there everyone is excited and wondering if the Magnolia trees and variety of bushes will sell big this year.

Well, the time is 7:30 a.m. and Ed Kraus starts his pep talk. MGVs are getting some specific assignments like crowd control, sled haulers, and helpers in daylily, iris, hostas, sun, shade

and native locations. I see the tally and checkout people ready to go. A few people like me are personal shoppers.

It's 8:00 a.m. and I hear Bill Shaffer say, "The gate is open." My heart starts to race; I see this crowd of people surging toward me with sleds in hand. I start asking people if they need help. Some ask where certain plants are located this year. More and more people parade through the gate. I ask a couple if they have any questions. They say they sure do. We start talking about their house and the areas where they need plants. Is the area sunny or shady? How big is the area? What is planted there now? Are you looking for some tall/short or different plants? The couple begins naming some plants and we go from there. They are so nice and appreciate my help. They select plants, saying that they had a lot of fun and I show them the way to checkout.

So I start walking back to the front and look for people who seem like they have questions. My approach works by just watching people's faces. I answer a lot of questions and then someone asks me where the purple coneflowers are. I say, "Follow me." We get to the location and I cannot believe my eyes! Almost every single coneflower is gone except two little ones. My customer doesn't want to pay \$3 for these two. The MGV who prices the plants walks

by and we mark these little plants down to \$1 each, which the person gladly takes. And I smile at the now empty space, knowing lots of plants have gone to happy homes. I look at my watch and am astonished to realize it is only 9:15 a. m. I think to myself so many plants are gone and so many spaces are empty in just an hour and fifteen minutes.

At this point I start consolidating trays and pushing plants together. I decide that I better make sure certain plants are still available before I answer any more questions. As there are fewer and fewer plants left, we start moving them to an area near the hostas. There are still some shoppers coming through. Some are disappointed that so few plants are left while others are so excited there are still plants left at all.

Time seems to fly by. Soon it's 1:30 p.m. and there is still one family talking near the irises. Someone finally tells them they have to check out now. I am exhausted by now. I'm hungry. I have to go to the bathroom again. So what do I do? I keep drinking water.

I start picking up all the signs and cleaning up. We drag sleds, flats, signs and everything to the DNR building. On Monday it will be taken back to the storage unit until next year when we will start all over again. Oh, my aching back and feet. Then I reflect, "I put in 47 hours this week alone at State Fair Park. No wonder I ache!!!!"

It's Picnic Time



Time to put down those garden gloves and stow your tools. Our annual picnic will be Thursday, August 22nd at Mitchell Park in Brookfield. The address is 19900 River Rd. (between Brookfield and Barker Roads). If you are familiar with the Wilson Center's location, the picnic shelter is just south of it.

A hot entrée and adult beverages will be provided by SEWMG. Master gardeners love to eat, so please bring a dish to share, such as an appetizer, salad or dessert. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Set-up will begin at 3:00 p.m.

If your time permits, plan to visit our project gardens in Brookfield - the Wilson Center, Strohmaier Sculpture & Botanical Garden, the Dousman Stagecoach Inn (1075 Pilgrim Parkway) and Eble Park (19400 W. Bluemound Road).

A Walk in the Park: Green Bay Botanical Gardens

by MGV in training Leigh Schlueter

As a new Master Gardener Volunteer 2012, Leigh is looking forward to volunteering at Ten Chimneys, the State Fair and writing for the Good Earth Newsletter! She just moved to Green Bay and she is learning about the Northeast WIMGA program. One of her first explorations in her new home was the Green Bay Botanical Garden and it is her goal to visit that garden each season to see the different interests the gardens provide.

I invite you to explore a wide variety of things to do at the Green Bay Botanical Garden. The Green Bay Botanical Garden's 47 acres of display gardens and natural areas capture the beauty of Wisconsin's four seasons and feature beautiful architectural elements. The architecture sets the stage for plants that thrive in the

Upper Midwest and give an all-star performance. The gardens were designed by landscape architect Dennis Buettner who has a special interest in botanical gardens. GBBG opened in 1996.

This summer, you could plan a day or overnight trip to Green Bay around an event at the Green Bay Botanical Garden. The Garden has an expansive list of [things to do](#) including the [25th Annual Garden Walk](#) (Saturday, July 13th); an [overnight campout](#) (Saturday, June 22nd to Sunday, June 23rd); or its [Fall Family Festival](#) (Saturday, October 5th); along with many interesting weekday classes.

During your visit, explore the [different display gardens](#) you will see any day on your visit, including areas featuring magnolias, shade plants,

and roses along with a Children's garden and an English Garden and more. The gardens employ five horticulturalists; they, along with master gardener and community volunteers, help keep the gardens beautifully maintained and the events flowing smoothly.

In addition to the gardens Master Gardeners will appreciate its educational library, plant clinic and, of course, its gift shop!

While on your trip to Green Bay, you could also visit [Bay Beach Wild Life Sanctuary](#) or ride the Zippin Pippin at the [Bay Beach Amusement Park](#).

Be sure to visit the botanical gardens web site at: <http://www.gbbg.org/>

Images from
Green Bay
Botanical
Gardens



Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Annual Conference

by Janet Wintersberger, MGV & Newsletter Editor

Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteers from across the state are welcomed to register for the 2013 Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Annual Conference. This exclusive event will feature notable local and regional horticulture experts to share their broad swath of gardening knowledge with you.

Friday, August 16th at Rotary Botanical Gardens

7:00 p.m. Keynote Presentation: [Master Gardeners and the People-Plant Connection](#) by Mark Dwyer,

Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Gardens

Optional Pre-Conference Activities will also be offered on Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, August 17th at University of Wisconsin-Rock County

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. WIMGA Annual Meeting, Keynote Presentation, lunch, three concurrent sessions and auction.

Registration is limited to 220 master

gardener volunteers. Additional details may be found on-line <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jHQa-BTD6aYgbnLfIDRIZO62zV7xZmk75sAXYXdIqAk/mobilebasic?pli=1>

August 16-17, 2013
Janesville, WI



Early Detection: The Key to Management by Sharon Morrissey Consumer Hort. Agent, MCCE

Agent, MCCE

For many things in life, early detection is critical. We won't mention some of the more unpleasant human diseases that are more easily treated when detected early. Plant pests, including insects and diseases, can also be more effectively treated using less toxic controls and sometimes even preventing plant damage or loss if identified early.

Systems are being developed right here in Wisconsin that allows us, as citizen scientists, to be part of early detection networks for invasives, both insects and plants. They strive to enable almost instantaneous sharing of data with the scientific community that can then initiate rapid response in management of these pests. There are two networks that you can participate in immediately and several more to come through the UW-Extension Master Gardener program office and the county offices.

GLEDN

The Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) reports locations of invasive plant species in states contiguous with a Great Lake. You may report using your computer or the new smartphone app which uses GIS to report your location. Both also allow you to submit photos that are then verified by approved experts and added to the database. Go to <http://www.gledn.org> on your computer or download the free app to your phone through <http://apps.bugwood.org/mobile/gledn.html> (go ahead - do it now!). You may enter as a guest, report your sighting, download or upload from 1 - 4 photos that capture the key identification features and submit your report for verification. On your computer, you will use an interactive map to pinpoint the location of the sighting that then reports the longitude and latitude of that site. You can also provide a more

detailed description of the location to enable verifiers to find it if necessary.

The mobile app makes doing all of this even simpler and you can do it right at the site where the invasive is found. If you do not have mobile service at that site, it will store the information until you do.

Both of these can also serve as resources for you since both access a group of large databases of invasive plants with detailed descriptions and photos. If nothing else, it is a great place to get



Japanese Knotweed—Invasive Plant

information on these species for whatever purpose you need. With cell service, you can access the information right in the field to assist you with identification. Even if you don't report a sighting, you can still contribute to the system by adding photos taken with your phone for species that so far don't have any.

Exotic Wood-boring Insects

Led by the USDA division responsible for preventing entry of wood-boring insects, such as emerald ash borer, in wooden packing crates via overseas shipping, this system has a beautiful simplicity. It uses a natural phenomenon to detect the presence of certain exotic wood-boring species that slipped through the dockside inspection process. It can also help monitor the presence of emerald ash borer, bronze birch borer and two-line chestnut borer - all undesirable species.

The system works because of the biology of a native, non-stinging

wasp of the genus *Cerceris*. This harmless wasp uses beetles of the *Buprestid* group of wood-borers to stock their ground nests with a food source for their larvae that hatch from the eggs they lay there. The wasps sting only to paralyze these beetles so they can carry them to their nests. Nests are solitary, underground and consist of several chambers with several wasps making their nests in the same area. How we use this biology depends on the fact that a certain percentage of their prey are dropped outside of the nest's entrance for some unknown reason. Therefore, these "drops" can be collected and sent to the USDA researchers to identify.

What's more, the wasps' nests are extremely easy to find through casual observation in the right locations. These wasps prefer sandy soils and tend to make nests in the infield of municipal ball fields. The entrance holes are a little bigger around than a pencil with a small mound of soil they push aside when making them. The most likely locations are ball fields that have sandy infields that are not well groomed since grooming would destroy the nests. Their source of wood-borers comes from forested areas so ball fields in close proximity to a tree belt associated with a larger area of woods are the best sites.

At this time, the USDA personnel in WI are simply asking that you identify the location of the ball field and provide your name and contact information when sending in these samples of "dropped" beetles. You can contact me to find out to whom to send samples.



Horntailed Wasp



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:

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On the Web	http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/
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Our Mission Statement

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