



## President's Corner

by Diane Thieme, MGV

What a couple of months it has been! Despite the cold and rainy weather, plant sale preparation carried on as scheduled. Diggers harvested donated plants, and Pot-A-Thon (PAT) volunteers processed about 14,000 plants. The lousy weather meant that some plants weren't ready to be dug this year, but what was dug, proved to be of excellent quality. In addition to the plants that were dug, a number of high quality shrubs, trees and hostas were purchased, at cost, by the plant sale leaders. Our customers were able to buy wonderful donated perennials, beautiful Klehm Song Sparrow trees and shrubs, and Q and Z Nursery hostas for far less than retail. Thanks to the many volunteers who worked at each of the PATs and to the dozens of volunteers who worked at the State Fair DNR area preparing for the sale.

There are a number of MGVs who deserve special recognition for their contributions to the success of the sale. Thanks to Bill Shaffer, Ed Kraus, and Mark Pawlak for hauling all our supplies and plants to PATs and State Fair. Thanks to Patty Witt and her crew for screening every plant to ensure that we were selling properly identified, disease free plants. Thanks to Pat Adrian for grooming plants,

so that they looked their best. Thanks to Kris Jensen for creating pictures of many of the plants, so that customers would have a better idea of blooms to come. Thanks to the Lifelong Gardening Committee for identifying easy care plants. Customers really appreciated the information. Thanks to Sue Ratkowski and Tom Hallett for tweaking the sale layout and pricing, so that customers could more readily find and price specific plants. Thanks to Bonnie Papham for printing labels for every single plant and for generating a plant sale list, so that buyers could create their shopping list (and plan of attack) in advance of sale day. Thanks to John Hahn for researching all of our shrubs and trees for their color, size, and shape, so that he could answer questions and make good recommendations to our customers. Every one of the trees and shrubs were sold! Thanks to Linda Ziebell, Leona Krause, and Margaret McCormick for helping to feed all of our plant sale week workers every day. Thanks to Mary and Fred Redlinger for running a very successful silent auction at the MGV pre-sale and for preparing all of our sleds for sale day. Thanks to Tom Rebstock for his beautiful photo record of sale day activities. Thanks to the

over 130 MGVs and MGV trainees who worked sale day. We could not do this event without all of you!!! And, lastly, thank you to Mother Nature for finally giving us a sunny beautiful day. Briefly stated, sales were terrific, Habitat for Humanity received a small but nice donation of healthy plants, garden chairs were able to get free plants for their gardens, and about 975 customers went home happy with lovely, healthy perennials.

Planning for 2015 has already begun. Watch for announcements. As you tend to your personal gardens, consider what you have that could be divided and donated to the sale. Take pictures and label things now, so that when spring arrives you know what you have, where you have it, and have a picture of it. Let Patty Witt know if you want to host a Pot-A-Thon next spring or have plants to donate.

Finally, here are some general business items for everyone's consideration:

The MGV celebratory picnic at the Mitchell Park Pavilion in Brookfield is on **August 21. Appetizers will be served at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.** Hot entrees and beverages will be provided, but kindly bring an appetizer, salad, side dish,

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### Special points of interest:

- Editor's note to get to any of the websites in this newsletter copy the URL into the address line of your Web browser
- MG-in-training Scholarships
- Using the ListServe
- Reminder to Project Chairs

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or dessert to pass. **Everyone is invited, including MGVs in training (newbies)**. It is a delightful evening of good food and good company. If you have an entertainment idea or skill, let me know.

Garden chairs are reminded to submit invoices and reimbursement forms ASAP. Please do not hold items for more than 30 days. Forms are on the webpage and should be sent to Treasurer, Lindy Pawlak.

Use of the ListSserve e-mail should be limited to SEWMG items only. E-mail issues continue, due in part, to the high volume of messages sent through our listserv. While it is nice to let members know about a sale or special

event, please send those types of e-mails to your personal list of contacts. They may, in turn, forward to their lists. Also, ***do not*** "Reply All" to e-mails asking for a personal response. Reply off list directly to the solicitor. The entire listserv does not need to know if you can volunteer, like a particular product, etc. Please understand that many MGVs do not appreciate the many "unnecessary" e-mails they receive.

It appears to finally be the start of summer. Enjoy the sun, warmth, and beauty of the all too short season. I hope to see you at one of the MGV gardens, the business meetings and the August picnic. Thank you for all that you do!

### **Mark your Calendars**

#### **August 21 Picnic**

Appetizers will be served at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.

#### **Mitchell Park Pavilion in Brookfield**

19900 River Road (Entrances to Park from Capitol Drive or River Road between Brookfield Road and Barker Road). The facility has indoor and outdoor seating & restrooms.

## **Carla Magnus Memorial Trees** *by Patty Witt, MGV*

Thanks to all the master gardeners who contributed to Carla Magnus' memorial tree fund. With your donations, SEWMG was able to sponsor a Northern Glow Hybrid Japanese Maple located in front of the Education and Visitor Center and a Mexican White Pine in the Rainwater

Harvesting area, along with a donation to the Hosta Garden (Carla's favorite plant). The plaques on the trees read: *"In memory of Carla Magnus, our dear friend and dedicated Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardener."*

Carla was a member of the plant sale committee and served on the SEWMG board of directors.



# News from the County Extension Offices *by Sharon Morrisey, UWEX-*

*Milwaukee Consumer Hort. Agent & Ann Wied, UWEX-Waukesha Consumer Hort. Educator*

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## Plant Health Updates Continue

These educational, interactive sessions are offered throughout the gardening season and are open to all SEWMGs interested in plant identification, plant pests and the effects of weather on our garden plants. Sessions are held at the Milwaukee County Extension office from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. Remaining sessions for this year are on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and September 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. No need to pre-register, just come to the ones you can.

## State Fair 2014

The Fair runs from July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 10<sup>th</sup> this year. MGv Faouzi Kablaoui began scheduling volunteers in late May. Orientations for volunteers scheduled to work the “booth” will be held on Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and on Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m.

There have been many changes made to the DNR Resources Park this spring due to the discovery last year of an emerald ash borer infestation there. DNR removed 19 of the 26 ash trees in the area, opening the canopy and changing the look completely. They are using the stumps to make an educational demonstration which should be ready in time for the opening of the Fair.

The impact on our ‘Model Backyard’ is not as drastic as in other areas because it had very few ash and the existing large trees were not disturbed. However, an ad hoc committee will meet in June to make changes to the layout of our display area mostly to accommodate enhanced activity of the Lifelong Gardening Committee.

A workday is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - noon to work on these changes and general maintenance of the area. There may also be some workdays scheduled during the week of July 21<sup>st</sup> especially to work on the labeling of plants and the compost demonstration. Watch the ListServe for announcements.

## Fall Level 1 Training

This annual, beginning MGv training course will again be offered September through December for 13 weeks. Days of the week have not been decided but we know the evening course will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Boerner Botanical Gardens and the daytime class will be held at the Waukesha County Courthouse from 1:00-4:00 p.m. If you know people interested in taking the class, tell them to call and leave a message at (414)256-4661. They should provide their name, address, phone and e-mail. They will receive an e-mail as soon as registration begins.

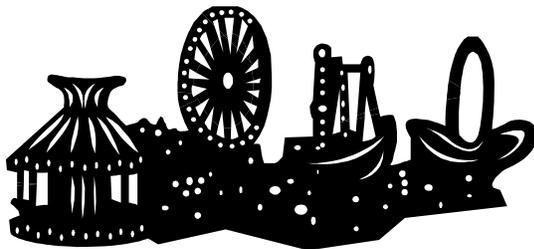
## Innovative Outreach and Collaboration in Waukesha County

An exciting program has been created through the innovation and collaboration between Waukesha County’s UWEX Consumer Horticulture Educator Ann Wied and Waukesha Memorial Hospital.

Ann Wied and her team of eight master gardeners will be talking at the hospital’s gardens this summer on varied dates from June through October. Topics include container gardening, tomato growing, fall planting and, last but not least, fall garden cleaning. The group will also help in planning and maintaining of the area. The gardens are located in the hospital’s courtyard and easily accessible to the patients and public alike.

This is a great way to share the knowledge and expertise of the master gardener program. It is also a positive way to encourage more gardening by the public. Registration will be required through the hospital at [ProHealthCare.org/classes](http://ProHealthCare.org/classes) or by calling 262-928-2745.

Way to go, Ann and those SEWMGs!



## About the Lifelong Gardening Committee *by Ann Loper, MG*

In 2010, two MGs, Kay Costello and Judy Savage, started the Lifelong Gardening Committee after receiving a large donation of tools from the MGV group that volunteers at the Hancock UWEX Research Center. They catalogued the tools and formed a committee. The Lifelong Gardening Committee's goals are to bring information to the public about gardening with physical challenges and to teach people how to garden easier while protecting their joints--so they may continue to garden for a lifetime.

The very active committee does this by demonstrating more easily used tools to gardening groups, by displaying tools at events around Milwaukee and Waukesha County such as Wauwatosa Garden Walk and by setting up a table at the SEWMG annual plant sale. You

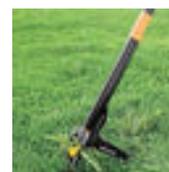
may have seen the group's table at this year's sale. Requests for many presentations come from the best source--word-of-mouth recommendations.

Some tools the Lifelong Gardening Committee likes to present are those that are lightweight, telescoping and tools that prevent bending over to achieve success in the garden. Examples include a long-handled weeder, a diamond hoe, a telescoping rake, and a cut-and-hold scissors or long reach pruner for tasks such as raspberry bush clean up. Another tool that is often recommended transfers the pressure to the forearm instead of the wrist. It has an arm ("Peta") cuff with attachments.

What interests master gardeners to the

committee? Several members have arthritis or other limitations and are interested in learning about the tools, and others have been or are affiliated with healthcare.

During construction around the Milwaukee County office, meetings are being held at Linden Grove Health Center, 13755 W. Fieldpointe Dr, New Berlin, WI 53151. The committee meets the first Wednesday of the month, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. We welcome new members! Future meetings are also listed on <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/> under Events.



### Look for tools that:

Are lightweight

Are telescoping

Transfer pressure from the wrist or hand

Prevent bending



## MG-in-training Scholarships *by Janet Wintersberger MG*

Since 2010, SEWMG has offered a limited number of scholarships for people who want to take Level 1 training but need a bit of financial assistance. Applying for the scholarships is easy. The process includes answering three essay questions - and mailing the form to our UW-Extension office in Milwaukee when it's time to register for classes.

All scholarship applications are reviewed prior to the start of the classes. When scholarship recipients are selected, SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners issues each person a

check for \$80 - roughly half of the UWEX course fee.

Because there is such a demand for the master gardener program training, it's essential to act quickly! Those interested must register for the course, pay for the training and submit the scholarship application.

If you know potential candidates who would like to take UW Extension master gardener training but need a bit of financial help, tell them about SEWMG scholarships.

### Describe your:

Interest in UWEX master gardener training;

Financial need;

How your training will benefit SEWMG & UWEX.

## Using ListServe adapted from Sharon Morrisey's e-mail of October 2013

If you ever want to send an e-mail to over 600 Master gardeners and those in training, consider ListServe. It's a tool for rapid communication to everyone and should be used to inform others of general interest; projects, gardens; trips and tours, educational programs; and training.

Here are some clues for using the tool:

- ⊗ *If you are responding to an announcement*, please select only the individual's e-mail address when replying. If you select SEWMG ListServe, *everyone* will be included in that conversation.
- ⊗ *If you have a horticulture question*, consider using the "for your

information" website for online resources. It's found at <http://FYI.uwex.edu/sewmg>. The state program also provides links to many horticultural topics at <http://hort.uwex.edu>.

- ⊗ *If you want one-on-one contact*, contact Milwaukee or Waukesha counties' Hort Help Lines (Milwaukee County 414-256-4664; Waukesha County 262-548-7779). The phone lines are staffed by plant health advisors (MGVs) who have more extensive training about plant, tree or shrub identification, insects and diseases, and much more.
- ⊗ Plant health advisors also seasonally staff the extension's office in

Milwaukee, Boerner Botanical Gardens (Hales Corners) and Waukesha.

- ⊗ *If you feel you are getting too many e-mails*, set up a file folder on your computer. You can set this up by using rules. All the e-mails will be kept in the file folder until you have time to read them.

But before you choose to opt out of ListServe, remember that you'll be missing valuable master gardening volunteer information.

You will find that MGVs individually and collectively are friendly and welcoming!

## Volunteer & Education Opportunities

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

May kept many speakers busy, along with several booths that were staffed by MGVs. Keep your eyes open to the many e-mails that are sent. You may not want to volunteer as a speaker but you can keep the date in mind for a future continuing education opportunity if the event is a public event.

### Coming up in July

July 12<sup>th</sup> - Greendale Garden Gazing 8 a.m. until noon. A group of MGVs will staff a booth during this event.

July 19<sup>th</sup> - Select Gardens of Greenfield 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Several MGVs will be docents for this event.



Week of July 27<sup>th</sup> the Registration materials will be sent out for the Level 1 Training. Tell your friends to get on the registration list! Class starts in September.

### July and August - Wisconsin State Fair

July 19<sup>th</sup> - Prepare the DNR area at the State Fair on the workday or help set up the week before the State Fair (dates to be announced).

July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. or July 30 at 6:30 p.m. - Attend an orientation.

July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 10<sup>th</sup> Staff a shift at the fair. Call Faouzi Kabloui (414 352-6557) to volunteer.

### August

August 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Zoo Ala Carte, MGVs are needed.

August 29<sup>th</sup> - Senior Celebration at the Zoo, MGVs are needed.

### Gentle Reminder

All Mandated Reporter Training certificates are due on September 15<sup>th</sup> when your volunteer hours are due for 2014. If you do not have access to a computer and the internet, please call Nancy at 414 256-4661. Appointments can be made to complete the training in our Extension offices.

### Level 1 Training

Tell your friends to get on the registration list! Have them call 414 256-4661. Registration materials will be sent the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>. Classes start in September.

# Our Perennial Plant Sale

Once again our plant sale committee has hosted a wonderful plant sale and raised funds to support activities, projects and programs of the SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners. It's the only funding that we receive other than the SEWMG \$5 portion of our annual dues to our

local organization. The other \$5 of our \$10 annual dues is donated toward the state Master Gardener Program.

SEWMG wouldn't be able to successfully raise this money without the strong leadership of the Plant Sale Committee

members - or without all the MGVs who donate plants, donate, dig, pot, tend, stage and support the sale.

Photographer Tom Rebstock MGV

Volunteer hours add up during the plant sale; in 2013, 3,000 plus volunteer hours went toward the plant sale





# Reminder to Garden & Project Chairs *by MGV Lindy Pawlak, Treasurer*

Please send in refund requests as soon as possible. This can prevent misplaced receipts, and of course gets your money back sooner. Just click on "Documents" and scroll down to "forms for our treasurer" at <http://fyi.UWEX.edu/sewmg>. Remember to have the garden/project chair sign it and include original receipts. Sorry, but sales tax is not refunded.

## Garden Support Committee Update

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

The Garden Support Committee (GSC) is a committee of SEWMGVs. We hold events and visit approved gardens to lend support to the approved gardens. We always welcome MGVs to join us at our GSC meetings. We will have a meeting in September after the business meeting. The UWEX ListServe and the SEWMG Web Site Calendar will be used to inform you of the date, place and time. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

**Approved Garden Visits in 2014** We will visit the following approved gardens in 2014: Fox 6 Green Thumb Garden, Kneeland-Walker Gardens Wauwatosa Historical Society, State Fair Model Backyard DNR Park at State Fair Park, Eble Park Gardens, Historic Dousman Stagecoach Inn Brookfield, Linden Grove Health Care Center Relaxation Garden, Pewaukee Public Library Rain Garden and Town Hall Library in North Lake. At least two members of the GSC will visit each garden. The Garden Chairs of these gardens will be contacted to arrange a mutually agreeable time to visit these gardens. Hopefully the visits will be made by August 1<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of these garden visits is to answer any

questions and provide information on resources available to assist each garden to meet the standards of a UW Extension project. This is the third year in the cycle of visiting each of the approved gardens once every three years. We will repeat this cycle again starting in 2016.

**Open House Type Visit to Selected Approved Gardens** At our last GSC meeting, a member tentatively expressed interest to head up a sub-committee to plan and coordinate open house type visits to Approved Gardens and/or Approved Youth Gardens in 2015. This was last done in 2012 and was a successful event. We will have more information regarding these visits in the next newsletter.

Please contact Patty Witt at [pattywitt8@gmail.com](mailto:pattywitt8@gmail.com) or Ken Loeffel at [kloeffel@wi.rr.com](mailto:kloeffel@wi.rr.com) with any ideas or comments for the GSC.

All photos on this page from Dousman Stagecoach Inn. Photographer Janet Wintersberger MGV



### Public Open Houses at Selected Approved Gardens

We are looking for a volunteer to head up a sub-committee to plan and coordinate public open house visits.



## South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners

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Grow with us

Check out our website

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

## Contact Information

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*For more information:*

Calendar Hotline (MGV Hotline)	414-256-4666
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### ***Our Mission Statement***

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