



# President's Corner

by Diane Thieme

## Bests and Worsts

As Charles Dickens wrote in *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." That's the way things appear to be going lately. The endlessly long winter, gray skies, and dirty black snow piles of March are the worst of times, but we know, at some point (probably July this year!), the sun and warmth will come back and bring the best of times for our gardens.

The long and harsh winter will likely result in some plant sale issues. Plant inventory may be low, and the variety of plants may be somewhat limited. As with last year, many plants will not be ready for digging, potting, and selling by the sale date of May 17. It also could mean that customer demand will be higher due to plant losses in their yards. We will be in need of more donors to fill our needs, so please consider making a donation. Smaller donations can be brought to any Pot-A-Thon site. Feel free to contact me with any questions about donating. If you need help with digging smaller quantities, contact Patty Witt. Patty will tour your garden, identify the usable plants and then her group will dig and transport them if they can be sold. There is a list of wanted and unwanted plants on the website.

There is good news, too. We now have two professional growers who are willing to sell us plant inventory at extremely low prices. We can sell those plants well below retail store prices and still make a reasonable profit for our fund raiser. We will have an outstanding selection and nice variety of hydrangeas, viburnum, magnolias, crabapples, flowering quince, lilacs, kerria, dogwoods, Japanese maples, birch, weigela, witchhazel, and named hostas. This fall, the dig team also transferred hundreds of plants to Eble for spring dividing and potting. Patty Witt will be scheduling Pot-A-Thons and digs as soon as weather permits. Let's all hope that April and May bring the best of times for weather and perennial plant growth, and that the sale raises lots of money to continue to fund our many gardens and projects.

Our e-mail system continues to create problems as we struggle to consistently get messages out to everyone in a timely fashion. This is definitely a "worst of times" with all of our gardens and projects getting ready to go into full swing. As the Information Technology Committee, the Extension, and members try to resolve the issues, regularly check the website <http://fyi.uwex.edu/>

[sewmg/](http://fyi.uwex.edu/). Information for events, announcements, classes, etc. is updated routinely. Make a habit of going to the site to seek answers to your questions and to check for missed e-mail announcements. In truth, you should be doing this even when the e-mail problems are resolved.

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2013. They, unfortunately, had to wait a particularly long time to get "pinned" because the Level 1 class was changed from spring to fall for this class. They finally got their pins on March 12. Welcome to the 92 new SEWMG members who have joined our ranks. Congratulations to all the other award recipients who were also honored at the Volunteer Celebration.

Certainly, the worst of times includes the loss of SEWMGV Carla Magnus to a heart attack in February. Carla became a master gardener in 2009. She was an At Large Board member and was very active on the Plant Sale committee, handling label making of the plants for several years. Carla was an avid hosta grower and an active member of the SEW Hosta Society. She will be dearly missed by the Plant Sale committee and her many gardening friends. A tree and memorial in her honor are planned for

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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
- In-house education programs
- The Plants are Coming! Plant Sale update
- Garden Support Committee

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Boerner Botanical Gardens. Thank you to the many members who donated funds for this memorial. In addition and with her family's permission, Ed Kraus will be naming a beautiful new daylily (pictured to the right) that he has hybridized. It will be called *Hemerocallis 'Carla Magnus'*.

Carla's At Large Board Member position will be filled, on an interim basis, by Mary Korntved. Thank you for stepping up, Mary.

Gardeners are eternal optimists. Every March, we begin to, once again, believe and sense that the worst of times is over and the best of times is coming. We eagerly plan and prepare for a beautiful garden and bountiful harvest. But, after this winter, don't you just wish spring would hurry up and get here!



#### President's Memo

Garden and project chairs: Thank you for taking on the leadership responsibility for your garden or project. I have seen the results of many of these efforts in the last few years and am truly impressed with what you do. As you start to make your purchases, please submit invoices and reimbursement forms to the treasurer, Lindy Pawlak, in a timely manner. Ideally, these items should not be held for more than 30 days.

## SEWMG Outreach Committee *by Ann Wied, UW Extension Horticulture Educator*

The SEWMG Outreach Committee held its first meeting in March. We determined our first goal will be to provide horticulture presentations to groups that we may have not served in the past. In addition, part of the presentation would be to promote the master gardener program. We hope to reach out to the African-American and Latino communities but are also exploring organizations and community

groups throughout Milwaukee & Waukesha county.

We plan to provide a gardening presentation to these groups on topics such as container gardening; small space, small budget gardening; and composting. We hope to give these presentations in June or July since Level I training registration is in late July/early August. If you have contact information for any groups or

organizations that you think would be receptive to hearing our presentations, please share that information with Ann Wied.

This committee is made up of six master gardeners and Ann Wied, UW-Extension Waukesha County Horticulture Educator. We welcome new members and are looking for a chair or co-chairs for this committee.

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

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

## Plant Diagnostics Season Begins

As the season revs up, answering plant questions and diagnosing plant problems become vital parts of the work of UW-Extension horticulture staff and volunteers. Wherever the conversation turns to gardening, as a MGV you are in a unique position to know the answers - or at least where to find them. Here are some ways to stay informed of seasonal developments of insect, disease and weather-related issues.

## Wisconsin Hort Updates

### Begins 4/18

Fridays from mid-April through mid-September a statewide teleconference is conducted by UW faculty, staff and specialists to report on the state of the growing season. State insect and plant pathology specialists tell us what pests have been submitted to their labs for identification and explain their appearance, biology and control. County personnel report on the progress of the season "in their neck of the woods." An invited speaker, an expert in the field, makes a brief presentation.

A written transcript of each session is prepared by one of our dedicated SEWMGs, Darlene Lochbihler. She adds links to documents and websites for the topics discussed to provide even more in-depth information.

All of this is available to anyone at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wihortupdate/>. The weekly sessions can be listened to on-line via a link found there, podcasts can be download to your MP3 device or you can download and print Darlene's information packed transcripts. Listening on-line and podcasts count as continuing education hours.

## Plant Health Updates Begin 5/7

Another way to keep up-to-date is to attend these sessions conducted by Sharon Morrisey every other Wednesday through September from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee County Extension office. They are open

to all MGVs who want to learn more about local plant problems. Bring plant samples and questions for the group to discuss and diagnose. No registration is required; just attend as many as you can. These also count for continuing education hours for MGVs.

## Plant Health Advisors

If learning this stuff is your passion, consider serving as a PHA in one of the County Hort Helplines or at the UWEX Hort Center at Boerner. Training is on-the-job and through training sessions to be announced later.

## On-going Hort Helplines

Jump in anytime if you want to learn to answer plant questions for the public who call our Horticulture Helplines (HHLs) at both of the County offices. You won't have to work alone, at

least not right away. And there are always staff members there to help you if you get stuck. For more information about the Milwaukee County Horticulture Help Line, which operates Monday to Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. - noon, contact Suzy Orth at [suzy.orth@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzy.orth@ces.uwex.edu) or 414-256-4664. The Waukesha County office Horticulture Help Line operates Tuesday to Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - noon. Waukesha County also accepts e-mail inquiries. Contact Commercial Hort Agent, Kristin Krokowski at [Kristin.krokowski@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:Kristin.krokowski@ces.uwex.edu).

## Walk-in Wednesdays Begin 6/4

Beginning in June, Walk-in Wednesdays provide evening hours for people to bring-in plant samples to the Milwaukee County Extension HHLs. It is held every week from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. by Suzy Orth and MGVs. Having actual samples to look at makes diagnosing plant problems easier, especially for beginners. And it's always fun to talk plants and gardening with fellow gardeners especially when it's for volunteer credit! Contact [suzy.orth@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzy.orth@ces.uwex.edu) or 414-256-4664.

## Hort Center at Boerner Opens 5/1

The Center is staffed Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. all season long by MGV Plant Health Advisors for callers and visitors to the Gardens. To improve visibility and access for the public, the MGVs will be at a well-equipped, attractive booth in the atrium of the Education and Visitors' Center at Boerner. We will also be accepting e-mail inquiries to keep us even busier. We have seasoned MGVs every day but would like to add more to help handle the increased volume. For more information or to volunteer, contact MGV Ilze Balodis-Larson at [ilze.balodislarson@att.net](mailto:ilze.balodislarson@att.net) or 262-782-4907.

## Statewide PHA Training

A full day of training is offered by our specialists in Madison to prepare staff and volunteers for "responding to hort inquiries" this season. Choose from Dane County Extension office in Madison on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Brown County Extension in Green Bay on May 22<sup>nd</sup> or Eau Claire on May 28<sup>th</sup>. All sessions are from 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. RSVP to [Sharon.Morrisey@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:Sharon.Morrisey@ces.uwex.edu). Transportation is on your own but if you want to car pool, let me know if you can drive and how many others you can take in your car.

## Fox 6 Garden Back on the Air

For the 16<sup>th</sup> year, the UW-Extension home demonstration garden at the Fox 6 TV studios will be back on the air beginning Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:45 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. If you miss the show live, you can view segments on <http://fox6now.com/wakeup/inthegarden>. Past segments are archived there as well so browse and you might find a few of interest.

The MGVs and I will be working in the garden every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - noon. The more help we have, the more we can accomplish together. No need to let me know you're coming; just come when you can. Bring your favorite hand tools, gloves, a kneeler if you need one and a bucket to carry them in. We have large tools in our shed. E-mail or call Sharon with questions.



# Environmental Education & Fun for All Ages in Waukesha Co.

by Ann Wied, UWEX-Waukesha Consumer Hort. Educator & MGV Ann Weronke

As schools close their doors for summer breaks, Waukesha County has opened the door to many outdoor educational opportunities. Ann Wied shared brochures about many environmental educational programs that the Waukesha County Park system has created for people of all ages.

Here are highlights of just a few. One can read about these and more by checking the website at [www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com). Registration is necessary for many of these programs at 262-970-6680.

Ages 2-4 the **Wee Wonders Program** "Wiggly Worms" on May 13<sup>th</sup> will encourage digging and holding these fascinating creatures. "A Turtle's Life" on June 10<sup>th</sup> will introduce Box Turtles to youngsters.

Ages 5-7 in **Nature Explorers**, the park system has "Let's Learn How to Fish" on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Explorers will be meeting a resident Bullfrog in "Jumping Frogs" on June 9<sup>th</sup>. They will be able to create a collage of flowers and leaves on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ages 7-12 - Various camps  
"Habitat Explorers Camp" will run from June 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and costs \$80.

"Earth & Space Adventure Camp" runs from July 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and costs \$100.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Camps** in June including Mammal Study, Forestry and Environmental Science.

**Girl Scouts studies** including Bugs, Senses and Animal Habitats.

For All Ages - **The Evening Trails program** offers "Fishing Frenzy" on May 9<sup>th</sup>. "What Can You Hear in the Night Air" on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and "What's Hoppin' Down at the Pond" on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

There is a free *Home Composting Workshop* at Retzer Nature Center from 10 to 11 a.m. on May 10<sup>th</sup>. On this day, native plants will be available for purchase.

**Saturday Explorations** covers a variety of topics. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, a program on preparing a garden will be presented. UWEX SEWMGs will hold workshops about *designing landscapes with native plants* on May 31 and *seed germination* on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The topic of *trees* can be studied on June 14<sup>th</sup>. *Native plants* are covered on June 21<sup>st</sup> and *native pollinators* will be the topic on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Registration is necessary for many of these programs at 262-970-6680. There may be a fee for some.

As one can see, there will many interesting and varied topics to keep us all involved in educational pursuits during the up-coming summer. Educational Programs offered later in the summer can be found on the website

[www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com).

Continuing Education credits can be earned from the following:

Wisconsin Hort. Updates

Plant Health Updates

Statewide Plant Health Advisor Training

Waukesha Environmental Education programs done by Master Gardeners.

In house Education programs

Trips and Tours

## In-House Education Committee by Rita Piper MGV, Chairperson In-House Education Committee

Almost 180 Master Gardeners attended the February presentation on *Vertical Gardening* by Mark Dwyer at the New Berlin Library. Mark wowed us with his gorgeous photos of vertically grown plants. We all returned home with creative ideas floating in our heads. If only Mother Nature cooperates, we might realize our dream to get outside to start planting.

The April program, *Tour of the City of Milwaukee nursery and greenhouses*, will be over by the time this newsletter is published, so we will report on it in the next edition.

Due to the plant sale, volunteering in the gardens and numerous educational opportunities available in the community, there will no In-House Education programs between May and August.

Upcoming programs in Fall include:

September 27<sup>th</sup>: *Roof Top Gardens and Rain Barrel Basics* with Christopher Schultz, MMSD

October 21<sup>st</sup>: *Taking Herbs to the Next Level* with Marcia Carmichael



Braise restaurant looking toward Rockwell clock tower

# The Plants Are Coming! The Plants Are Coming!

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Here's a reminder about our annual perennial plant sale on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. While our seasoned master gardeners are familiar with all the activities, our more recent master-gardeners-in-training may not be.

**It takes many master gardeners to hold a successful plant sale.**

Did you know our annual perennial plant sale is the primary fundraiser for our organization? Its profit lets our organization donate money to UW extension and its staff; funds the SEWMG educational programs; buys signage, stakes and labels for our approved gardens; helps our approved gardens thrive; supports our annual dinner and MGV picnic; funds projects; lets us provide MGs-in-training with scholarships; and aids many other master-gardener-related things.

Work for the 2014 sale has already begun. How can you help?

- ⊗ Promote the sale to everyone you know. Like Us on Facebook ([facebook.com/sewmgplantsale](https://facebook.com/sewmgplantsale)). Hand out our bookmarks with sale information... to your co-workers, employees, customers, friends, family, etc.
- ⊗ Ask how to donate perennial plants from your, a neighbor's, a friend's, or a relative's garden. ***This is vital to our success.*** There are suggested lists

of plants we accept and don't accept on the MGV site - [www.fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/perennial-plant-sale](http://www.fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/perennial-plant-sale).

- ⊗ Host a "dig." If you have a number of the desired/managed plants, a group of volunteers will come to your garden and harvest plants. MGVs have already harvested hundreds of plants and heeled them in at Eble farm for spring dividing and potting. Contact Patty Witt to discuss a possible dig ([pattywitt8@gmail.com](mailto:pattywitt8@gmail.com)).
- ⊗ Host a "Pot-A-Thon." If you have 500+ plants, we will bring an entire team to dig, divide, pot, label, and tray your tax deductible plant donation.
- ⊗ Donate a garden-related item or special plant for the presale silent auction. Contact Patty Witt.

Many types of volunteer work are available for the plant sale. Volunteer work includes but is not limited to:

At Pot-A-Thons, you can be:

1. Trailer drivers
2. Diggers
3. Dividers
4. Potters
5. Labelers

During Plant Sale week, you can:

1. Clean and prepare the plant sale site at state fair.
2. Haul plants from donor's homes to the fair grounds.
3. Conduct quality control inspections of incoming plants.

4. Sort plants by their botanical names and move them to their alphabetical location of the grounds or their specialty area.
5. Alphabetize and sort within their specific areas by color, variety, size, etc.
6. Spray paint pots to tag for prices.
7. Prepare food for workers as lunch and snacks are served each full work day.

Private pre-sale for active (dues paid) MGVs is held Friday evening (May 16<sup>th</sup>)

On Plant Sale day (May 17<sup>th</sup>), you can help as:

1. Sales advisors/plant specialists
2. Personal shoppers
3. Talliers
4. Checkers
5. Cashiers
6. Plant sitters
7. Plant health advisors
8. Sled runners
9. Crowd control

On post-sale clean-up day (May 19<sup>th</sup>), help is needed to

1. Continue with sales (if any of the 10,000-15,000 plants remain)
2. Move leftover plants for donations
3. Clean site
4. Haul trailers and supplies back to storage

# The Pot-A-Thon Work Days

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Below is the schedule of **Pot-A-Thons** for this spring. Please come to as many of them as you can. There is no need to let anyone know; we will welcome everyone whenever you can make it. As this spring is really 'iffy', **please check our website each day prior to traveling to a Pot-A-Thon** as the schedule may change at any moment and with our e-mail problems, the best notification will be the website.

Pot-A-Thon	Name	Time	Address
Mon. Apr. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Monday - <i>No Pot-A-Thon</i>		
Tues. Apr. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Karen Brey	9:00 a.m.	W204 N5420 Lannon Rd. Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Wed. Apr. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Patty Witt	9:00 a.m.	16508 W. Melody Ct. New Berlin, WI 53151
Thurs. Apr. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Open		
Fri. Apr. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Kraus	9:00 a.m.	11625 W. James Ave. Franklin, WI 53132
Sat. Apr. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Eble Park	9:00 a.m.	19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI
Mon. Apr. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Bonnie Paplham	9:00 a.m.	7927 W. Bur Oak Dr. Franklin, WI 53132
Tues. Apr. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Adrian	9:00 a.m.	1301 Thomas Trail Oconomowoc, WI 53066-4264
Wed. Apr. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Cindy Lindstedt (Lunch provided) try to carpool, as it's a distance	9:00 a.m.	N3293 Rome-Oak Hill Rd. Sullivan, WI 53178
Thurs. May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bill Shaffer	9:00 a.m.	12224 Elmhurst Pkwy Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Fri. May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Irwin Johnson	9:00 a.m.	13685 Watertown Plank Rd. Elm Grove, WI 53122
Sat. May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Eble Park	9:00 a.m.	19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI
Mon. May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Eble Park - <i>If Needed</i>	9:00 a.m.	19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI

# Memoir of a Plant Transplant by *Polygonatum biflorum*, (Solomon's Seal)

Translated by MGVSueRatkowski

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Ow! That hurts! What's going on? Someone is digging me up. Not just part of me, but the whole me. Ooo, that smarts, right down to the roots. Where am I going? A lady with red hair says she will pull the sled I'm in and suddenly I'm sliding across the ground. Help me! I'm leaving all my friends and companions. Now I'm being lifted and put into a car. Where are they taking me? There are a whole bunch of us in here. Maybe I'll find out soon. Soon the car is stopping. I'm being lifted out of the car and slid across the ground again.

There is a garden with a fence around it. The red-haired lady cuddles me in her hands. She moves me to a spot where other plants have been placed in rows. She eases away the dirt and places me in the soil and gently covers my roots. I see that a buddy, Swamp Milkweed, is my neighbor. I hear a worker call, "Patty, this needs a label." That Patty knows our real names and puts a label with Swampy's real name, *Asclepias incarnata*, written on it. These people sure know what they are doing so I should be safe. Boy, there are lots of us here in this garden near the white barn.

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

I'm liking it here. I get water regularly and have rows and rows of friends here.

January 2014.

Lots of snow covers me and it is cozy and warm under these blankets. Guess I will just sleep away the winter.

February 2014

The groundhog was right. Time to snuggle in until spring.

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Finally the rains and sun melt the snows. Well, we had lots of lots of winter. Suddenly I hear many cars and people's voices. They are coming into the garden. The red-haired lady is back and she shovels me out, places me on the sled and moves me to the groups of people.

Oh, oh, they just lift me onto a table. It looks like a party of some kind; people are laughing and some are eating. I see four people looking at me and feeling me all over. Someone takes a garden knife to me. What is going on? Then I remember that this is what my parents told me all about. One day when I get big enough, I would be divided and split into little Solomons. That way I would make a lot of people happy. They split me and I worried it would hurt but it doesn't. I am so proud because they make 10 Solomons out of me.

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

I have grown so much and all the Little

Solomons look so good. Wait...I see a couple of people coming over to us. It's more than the one who gives us a drink everyday. I don't know what's happening again. Off on another sled ride. We are being put in a trailer. We are packed in here. It is dark and a little scary.

The trailer stops and the doors creak open. Wow! There are so many people here and all looking at us so closely. There sure is excitement in the air. Off on another sled slide! We are all being put by relatives but friends are being split-up. Hey...I think I see some relatives I know. Well, I am getting tired and have had enough for today. Everyone leaves and it is really quiet now.

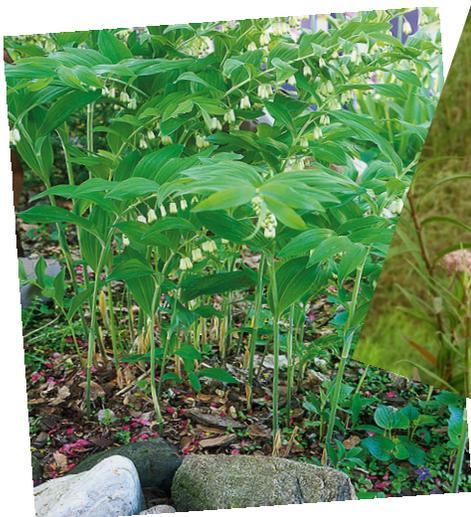
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Every one of us looks his best. I even see pictures of relatives hanging up on fences. There is excitement in the air. I have a feeling today will be a Big Day! A few people have come by and moved us a little here and there. Hey, Guys...it has gotten all quiet and where did all the workers go now?

Then I hear the bell. HELP! It looks like a hundred people are coming my way. Oh... what's going on? Some of us are being picked up and moved to yet another sled with different friends. Someone just picks me up!!!!!! She shows me to her family and says she likes that I am strong and beautiful. She decides I would look great in her yard. I know what this is all about. This is another thing that my parents told me all about. I will go home with a family and make them proud.

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

I am planted in my new family's yard with 14 other friends last week. Everyone has been taking great care of me. I think I will like my new home.



# Reimbursement Changes *by MGV Kathie Foti, Finance Committee Chair*

Please submit requests for reimbursement as soon as possible after purchases are made and at least by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Expenses incurred after that should be submitted immediately so the Finance Committee has that information by November 1<sup>st</sup> when preparing its budget proposal for the coming year. Expenses incurred in November and December can still be applied to the current year's budget but should only be for items needed in the current year.

New form is available here <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents/> This document is formatted so it can be filled in on the computer before printing. Paper copies will also be available at meetings.

**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.



## 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 May. 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.

**Garden Chair Forum (GCF)** On Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a very well-attended Garden Chair Forum. As you may know, this event was for all Approved Garden Chairs and/or their Representative. We had 52 Garden Chairs attend this event. Thank you for being there. This event was held at the Boerner Botanical Gardens Education and Visitors Building.

We were able to inform the Approved Garden Chairs about the duties and responsibilities of being a Garden Chair. And the Garden Chairs hopefully will inform the MGVs, who volunteer at their garden, about the information presented at the GCF. A special thanks goes Sharon Morrissey for giving a very informative presentation on *“How to Broaden the Educational Component of*

*Your Garden.*” Further thanks is extended to Carolyn Dressler for once again preparing a power point presentation of *“What’s New for 2014”* regarding flower and plant varieties.

And the baked refreshments were great! Thanks to all you bakers! Lastly, thanks to all the volunteers who showed up early to help with the set up and register attendees. And thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the cleanup at the end of the event. Many hands made the set up and cleanup happen in short order. *Thanks!*

**Approved Garden Visits in 2014** At the last GSC meeting, the committee finalized the list of approved gardens and which committee members will visit each garden in 2014. If your approved garden is one of the nine to be visited 2014, the Garden Chair will be contacted to arrange a mutually agreeable time to visit your garden. 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 UWEX project. This is the third year in the cycle of visiting each of the approved gardens once every three years.

**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 at Approved Gardens and/or Approved Youth Gardens. This was last done in 2012 and was a successful event. If you are interested in chairing this sub-committee, please contact Ken Loeffel at [kloeffel@wi.rr.com](mailto:kloeffel@wi.rr.com) or Patty Witt at [pattywitt8@gmail.com](mailto:pattywitt8@gmail.com), for more information.

Also please contact Patty Witt or Ken Loeffel with any ideas or comments for the GSC.



# Volunteer & Education Opportunities

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

Hello MG Volunteers,

March and April have been very busy for MGVs. The Realtors Home & Garden Show in March, was a very successful introduction of our new display and brochure, "DIY Fruits." Volunteers answered questions and helped direct the public to educational resources. This event involved at least 67 volunteers at the booth and two MGV speakers at the Solutions Stage.

Art in Bloom, held annually at the Milwaukee Art Museum, kept many of our new and seasoned MGVs busy during the weekend of March 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Art in Bloom is a tribute to art and flowers.

SEWMG funds were used to purchase blue aprons with our logo. We were able to put them to work during March at the Realtors Home and Garden Show and Art in Bloom. The aprons have been a great addition to our presence at events.

Our group of MGV speakers have been

busy. Here is the listing of speakers in April:

- ⊗ April 5<sup>th</sup> Retzer nature Center-MGV Dianne Wardinski, presented "Vermicomposting."
- ⊗ April 9<sup>th</sup> New Berlin Park and Rec-MGV Soozie Willey, spoke about "Vegetable Gardening for Beginners."
- ⊗ April 12<sup>th</sup> SE Wisconsin Mensa Conference MGV Margaret McCormick, discussed "Container Gardening."
- ⊗ April 22<sup>nd</sup> Brookfield forum: Community Seniors- MGV Margaret McCormick will present to the group.
- ⊗ April 28<sup>th</sup> New Berlin Garden Club- Extension Agent Sharon Morrissey's topic will be "Insect Control."
- ⊗ April 30<sup>th</sup> New Berlin Park and Rec-MGV Soozie Willey, will present "Making your Landscape Sparkle."

April starts the annual "Digs" for the

plant sale. Watch for e-mails regarding the digs, plant sale set up and staffing the plant sale on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Coming up in May and June:

- ⊗ May Farmers Markets start. Watch for emails for volunteer requests.
- ⊗ May 7<sup>th</sup> New Berlin Park and Rec Soozie Willey, will discuss "Ornamental Grasses."
- ⊗ May 8<sup>th</sup> Susan Konkel, will be presenting information about containers and using attractive combinations.
- ⊗ May 17<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale
- ⊗ May 17<sup>th</sup> Capital West Neighborhood Beautification is still in need of a MGV to staff a general gardening booth.
- ⊗ June 26<sup>th</sup> Lake Shore Garden Club- Ann Loper and Marilynn Cech, will present "Enabling Gardening."

Happy Gardening, Nancy

## 2014 Trips and Tours by MGV Doris Fons Trip/Tour Chair

Wednesday morning, May 28<sup>th</sup> will be our outing to **Jerry Nelson's home**. We will continue to learn about growing grapes in Wisconsin from Jerry's newly planted vines. Our past winter should make that very interesting. Jerry will also show us some new plants and how to use them in containers and our gardens. He always has such great combinations. We also never miss an opportunity to tour his yard and see the great specimen plants he has growing. Then there is our little plant exchange of something special that you can share from your yard. It is a fun morning especially when the sun is shining. We'll visit Jerry Nelson's from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Sign up begins on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m. by e-mail at [dorisann@wi.rr.com](mailto:dorisann@wi.rr.com) or phone 414-

425-6072. E-mail always works best. We are limited to 35 people.

Transportation is on your own and directions will be provided in the letter sent if you are part of the 35 to register. We collect \$7 per person as a gift to Jerry towards a new treasured plant or tree for his yard. Be sure to put the dates for registration and the outing on your calendar.

Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> will be our bus trip to **Green Bay Botanical Gardens** and **West of the Lake Gardens** in Manitowoc. This is an all day trip with a stop for lunch at 1951 West in Green Bay. The fee for SEWMG members is \$50 and non-SEWMG members is \$55. We are still working on final details.

Sign up begins on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m. by e-mail at

[dorisann@wi.rr.com](mailto:dorisann@wi.rr.com) or phone 414-425-6072. E-mail always works best. This trip is limited to 55 people.

The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from the State Fair Park & Ride and will

have a second pick up at 8:00 a.m. at the I-43 Brown Deer Park & Ride. Estimated return time is 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. All details will be included in the letter you receive if you are among the first 55 to register.



We are hoping for great weather to make our trip fun and enjoyable.



## The Romance of Herbs and Flowers *by MGV-in-training Fran Luebke*

As winter turns to spring, I am reminded of Alfred Lord Tennyson's words, "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." February brought us St. Valentine's Day and June is traditionally thought of as the month of marriage. Each bride carries a bouquet of flowers which has a long history. Although associated with the nosegay or tussie mussie of Victorian times, this type of bouquet actually dates back to a much earlier time. Long before that, poor sanitation and hygiene lead to a world of odor. It also was thought that diseases were spread by bad air (miasma) so fragrant bouquets of flowers and herbs were used to protect the holder from both disease and the affront to the nose.

In 1629, John Parkinson in his work "Paradisi in Sole Paridus Terrestris" described using small bouquets for their sweet scent. By Victorian times, the long tradition of the nosegays or tussie mussies evolved into a tradition of presenting a bouquet to convey a message. Symbols of sentiment or love were expressed by including different flowers or herbs but the interpretation could vary widely. In some instances, the meanings are contradictory and it is up to the recipient to decipher which meaning was intended. In 1818, Mme. Charlotte de la Tour published *Le Language des Fleurs* which became a handbook for young ladies creating their own tussie mussies and interpreting those they received. Here are just a few flowers and herbs associated with the language of flowers.



Basil is a symbol of courtship but represents the contradiction of both love and hate.

Borage represents courage.

Caraway and Cumin give the gift of retention. Engaged couples were given them to bring and keep them together. (Seeds slipped into the pockets of a wayward husband would bring him back to his home and family.)

Iris signals sending a message or compliments to you but the yellow iris is a sign of passion.

Lavender means sweetness and undying love as well as purity and cleanliness.

Purple lilacs came to be associated with first emotions of love and white lilacs symbolize purity, modesty and innocence.

Marjoram was the flower of lovers in Gypsy tradition. The blossoms in the bride's bouquet have come to represent her blushes.

Rosemary was immortalized by Shakespeare in *Hamlet*, when Ophelia spoke, "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray you, love, remember." It was used as a medicinal herb to stimulate the brain and is associated with devotion and memory. It was favored for its fragrance and came to signify fidelity, loyalty and enduring love. However for the same reason it was also associated with death. My mother's name was Rosemary. She liked to remind me of the ancient belief that if rosemary thrived for the housewife, the mistress was master of the home. My rosemary dies every winter so I shall say no more!

Rue was a symbol of virginity, morals, mercy and brought luck to the home. In some central European countries, the bride is crowned with rue. However it is a bitter herb and also has been associated with suffering and associated with the Virgin Mary.

Sage symbolized domestic virtue, good health and long life. Is it fair to assume that the second and third derive from the first?

Tri-color viola (Johnny-jump-ups) "hearts ease" is a sign of thoughts, faithfulness and happiness. It also represents the trinity.

Last of all is the Rose that symbolizes beauty, youth and love. Many messages have been attributed to various colors to send different messages. Those most familiar to us are the red roses associated with love and desire, the white for charm, innocence and purity, yellow can be for gladness or jealousy, and rosebuds for the innocence of girlhood.



May your June gardens bloom with fragrance and beauty. For me, I will steep some costmary to help resist the bites of "venomous beasts" and ease my gout and sciatica. The clary sage leaves I will batter and fry to help ease my weak back. The rest of the gardening aches and pains will be treated by a rest on my garden bench under the arbor waiting for the climbing rose to provide shade and fragrance.

*Editor's note: The University of Wisconsin does not recommend using herbs for medicinal use.*





## South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners

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Grow with us

Check out our website

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### ***Our Mission Statement***

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