



# Good Earth News

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## Garden Project Moratorium Lifted by Sharon Morrisey

For two growing seasons now, there has been a moratorium on new MGVS gardens. This issue was a topic of extensive discussion at a meeting in mid-June which included several of the SEWMG officers and the County Extension educators, Ann Wied and Sharon Morrisey. The following policy is what resulted from that discussion.

Effective immediately **the moratorium is lifted**. Let's be clear, however, that this means that UWEX is accepting requests for approval of volunteer service hours at new gardens that will become long-term MGVS commitments. **It does not automatically include funding from SEWMGs.** Requests for funding needs to be made to the SEWMG Finance Committee. This issue should be addressed with the partner organization on the garden (more on that later in this article).

### MGVS Gardens vs. MGVS Projects That Involve Gardens

**MGVS Gardens** are sites where SEWMGs and UW-Extension have accepted primary responsibility for the on-going care and maintenance of a garden that belongs to another organization. These projects must meet all of the current criteria for garden projects spelled out in the Volunteer Service Policy (see the *Documents* page of the SEWMG website). We are also adding a few more minimum requirements which are detailed later in this article.

**MGVS Projects**, on the other hand, are those "volunteer projects that involve gardens" where we have been asked to advise and/or assist with planning and planting of a garden, to conduct educational sessions in a garden or to advise on maintenance or renovation of a garden. These projects do not require us to make a commitment to on-going maintenance, therefore no pre-approval for volunteer service is required. These activities qualify for MGVS service hours because of the public educational role played by the MGVS. If funding is needed, requests should be directed to the SEWMG Finance Committee.

To request approval of a garden for volunteer service, submit a completed *Garden Profile Form* to the Extension Educator or Agent in the county

where the garden is located (Ann for Waukesha County or Sharon for Milwaukee County). We will review it and notify you of our decision. A revised version of the old *Garden Project Profile* form will be ready soon and posted to the *Documents* page of the SEWMG website.

### Minimum Requirements

In order to assure that UW-Extension and the MGVS can fulfill their commitment to a new MGVS Garden, there will be a few additional minimum requirements as cited below:

1) There needs to be at least **3 SEWMGs on the committee** for the new garden.

2) There needs to be a copy of the **SEWMG Garden Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.)** submitted along with the Profile. (This will be available soon on the *Documents* page of the SEWMG website.) This document spells out the roles of both partners for the Garden (more on this later in this article.) The M.O.U. should be signed by both the MGVS Chairperson for the new garden and someone from the partner organization.

3) **Beginning this year, in order to remain an approved Garden, all gardens need to submit a Garden Annual Report by September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Currently, this is only required for gardens submitting budget requests that year. The Garden Annual Report will confirm the intent to continue with the project and that all criteria and minimum requirements are still being met. The *Garden Annual Report and Budget Request* forms are on the *Documents* page of the SEWMG website. Both forms should be submitted to the SEWMG Finance Committee Chair (currently Ruth Marshall.) The annual report will be given to the UW-Extension educators for review and then kept on file in the Milwaukee County Extension office. The budget request will be considered by the SEWMG Finance Committee.

### Garden Partnership M.O.U.s

The Garden Partnership MOU should be thoroughly discussed with the partner prior to

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## Garden Project Moratorium Lifted *continued*

committing to take on the garden as a project. In addition to the minimum requirements for MGVs listed above, it includes the following minimum requirements for the partner:

1) **Funding should be shared equally to the extent possible.** partner organization are asked to provide a minimum of 50% of the funds needed to start and maintain the garden each year. This can include in-kind contributions such as materials or staff labor. If the partner organization cannot provide this level of funding, **it should be made clear to them that the MGVs can request funds through the SEWMGs for consideration by the Finance Committee but it is not guaranteed.**

2) **Any permanent structures or additions for the garden should be paid for by the partner organization.** Funds for tools and equipment and non-permanent ornamentation or structures that can be taken with us if the partnership is disbanded, can be requested by MGVs from SEWMGs through the budget request process.

3) **The partner should acknowledge UW-Extension and the SEWMGs with signage** in the garden, inside of their facility and in written publications related to the garden.

4) **The partner organization should encourage volunteers from their organization to work with MGVs in the Garden.** This allows MGVs to serve an educational role which is a primary objective of the MGV program.

The documents related to these new policies should be posted to the SEWMG website soon (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents>.) Call Nancy Lehrer, MG Volunteer Coordinator for help finding or completing the forms.

We are very pleased with this resolution of the difficult issue of garden project approval. It strengthens both the MGV commitment to garden projects and, more importantly, strengthens the current partnerships.

If you have any questions or concerns, we want to hear from you.



## News from the County Offices by Sharon Morrisey & Ann Weid

### County Fair Has a Growth Spurt

There are big plans for the Milwaukee County Fair this year. It will be held in not just 1, not 2 but 3 areas of State Fair Park on the last weekend of September and again it will be in conjunction with Harvest Fair and the World Beef Expo so we are sure to have a crowd.

The Horticulture Pavilion where the entire Fair has been held for the past 4 years, will be devoted this year entirely to youth and 4-H activities. The Cream Puff Building will no longer be a haunted house but an area devoted to adult educational activities of the UW-Extension as well as vendors of related items. The DNR Natural Resources Park will be open, too, featuring none other than the UW-Extension SEWMGs and their 'Model Backyard'!

MGVs will be needed for two of these three areas. In the DNR area in our 'Model Backyard', we will do a fall version of State Fair. It will be great to share the butterfly garden, native plants, hardy cacti and lifelong gardening information one more time this year. It makes our work there even more worthwhile. We should probably plan to publicize the 2012 Plant Sale that weekend. People who have never been to the sale before will then know where to go next spring for our great selection of plants.

The second place where MGVs can really do some worthwhile work is in the Cream Puff Building (sans the cream puffs, unfortunately). We can have as much space as we wish to set-up an educational booth

on any topic we think is important and interesting. We should also have plant diagnostics there complete with references and lots of hand-outs.

There will also be a stage for educational presentations and demonstrations. The Fair Committee hopes to have something scheduled there throughout the Fair. MGVs have done many live demonstrations at past Fairs. This year, let's try to double the number and the volunteers involved. Think of a topic or technique you are interested in that you can demonstrate or show with lots of interesting props. Ideas include dividing perennials, taking cuttings of annuals, starting seeds indoors, worm composting, composting, tool care, favorite tools, accessible tools and other equipment, air layering, transplanting houseplants, pesticides for organic gardeners, flower arranging, making hypertufa trough gardens, cement stepping stones, terra cotta pot birdfeeders, birdbottle gourd care after harvesting, preserving herbs, dried flowers, Wisconsin natives in fall, grapevine wreath making, invasive species removal, etc.

Don't forget that you can enter your flowers, veggies, art work, baked goods and photographs in the Open Class. Kids who are not in 4-H can enter, too, in the Youth Open Class. The link to the Premium books will be sent to you soon via the ListServe. Look it over to see what you can enter that might just win you a blue ribbon, too.

There are big plans for the Milwaukee County Fair this year. It will be held in not just 1, not 2 but 3 areas of State Fair Park on the last weekend of September



(Continued on page 3)

## News from the County Offices *continued*

SEWMGs are again generously sponsoring the Milwaukee County Fair. Let's make our presence felt. I will be sending out sign-up sheets for the booth, 'Model Backyard' staffing and demonstrations. In the meantime, think fall and all the wonderful information MGVs have to share with others.

### **MGV Fall Specialty Training**

This year's Training on "Native Plants and Invasive Species" will be held at Boerner Botanical Gardens from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup>. It is open to all MGVs who have submitted both their 24 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education. You may submit your completed timesheet with your registration.

Registration forms will be posted to the SEWMG website by the end of August with a link sent via the ListServe. Hardcopies will be mailed to MGVs who do not have an e-mail address. The sessions will cover the following 6 topics: plant communities in Wisconsin, natural landscaping, prairie establishment and maintenance, wetlands and shorelines, seed propagation of native species, invasive plant species and the NR40 rules.

So, mark your calendars, get your timesheets filled-in and watch for the registration information to register.

### **Timesheets Due September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Volunteer service hours and continuing education hours should be recorded on a SEWMG timesheet (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents>) and submitted to the Milwaukee County UW-Extension office to the attention of Kathy Reese by September 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have not completed your hours due to illness or extenuating circumstances or just that you need a few more hours, contact Kathy to make arrangements for an extension at [kathy.reese@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:kathy.reese@ces.uwex.edu) or 414-256-4659.

### **Waukesha County Fair Educational Display**

SEWMGVs staffed an educational display on the topic of invasive species at the Waukesha County Fair July 20<sup>th</sup> through July 24<sup>th</sup>. Our booth shared a tent located outside on the Waukesha Expo grounds with Waukesha County UW Extension 4-H. It was a great

team effort! Four SEWMGV co-chairs (Jim Liebert, Mary Ann Zompa, Pat Roberts, and Connie Nemetz) assisted in the planning, setting up, staffing, supervising, and taking down of the SEWMGV display, tables, etc. Many assisted in more than one way. Many thanks for your help!

Thirteen other SEWMGVs staffed this outside exhibit during one of the hottest weeks in Wisconsin's history. We did have a fan in the booth that circulated the air. This was essential for survival. Needless to say, attendance was not stellar during the first few days of the week. As the heat index dropped though, attendance picked up. Questions varied. Many, many thanks to the SEWMGVs who staffed the booth! I sincerely appreciated your commitment and dedication to this educational outreach effort.

### **SEWMGVs at Brookfield Farmers Market This Year**

If you have ever been to the Brookfield Farmers Market, you know it is a very busy place. In fact, it is probably the largest and busiest in Waukesha County. Over the years, Waukesha County UWEX has worked with the market manager to provide UWEX resources for market customers. This year the SEWMGVs are staffing a table.

This table provides visitors with horticulture information and resources. This is a resource table. It is not a horticulture helpline outreach site although the Horticulture Helpline in Waukesha County and Milwaukee County is promoted through the "Gardening Resources" handout. SEWMGVs also offer market customers nutrition information and healthy recipes for vegetables that are currently in season. UW Cooperative Extension Nutrition Education Department provides this information. This booth is a great way to promote UW Cooperative Extension Horticulture and Cooperative Extension overall.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to staff this resource table at the Brookfield Farmer's Market. A big thank you goes to SEWMGV Glenda Stanlick who offered her Brookfield home to serve as the pick-up and drop-off site for all market supplies and resources. If you are at the market, stop by and say hello to the Master Gardener. Someone is there most weeks throughout the summer. The table is located across from the market manager table/tent.



**This year's Training on "Native Plants and Invasive Species" will be held at Boerner Botanical Gardens from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**



## Stay Informed and Connected

Can't get to a business meeting? Did you know that the business meeting minutes are on our web site? Check out this link: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/minutes/> Make sure your project or activity gets listed on the MGV calendar. Staying in the know just got easier.



## *Volunteer Report* by Nancy Lehrer

Nancy Lehrer became our new Volunteer Coordinator on July 5<sup>th</sup>. We asked for more information, and here it is: "I live in Greenfield with my husband Jaime. We have three daughters; Atalie, Katie and Laura. Laura is a senior at Whitewater and the only one still at home. Currently, I work part-time at a south side business, Custom Grown greenhouse. In my free time, I enjoy gardening in my yard and volunteering in several activities; my church, the Greenfield Beautification Committee and last but not least SEWMG. I have been a MG since 1995 when Milwaukee County Extension was located at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center. Over the years, I have enjoyed volunteering at many different SEWMG sites/events including the Mount Carmel Rehab Center gardens, Havenwoods gardens, Home Show, State Fair, and the Milwaukee County Fair. I have also enjoyed volunteering in the SEWMG office.

I am very excited to return as a member of the Milwaukee County Extension horticulture staff. In the past, I co-taught an after school garden program and then later worked for the Urban Ag team (garden rental). I look forward to the new challenges as your volunteer coordinator.

During the last two months I have enjoyed getting to know many Master Gardeners that have volunteered in the office. One of my first on the job projects was preparing for the State Fair. There were many handouts to copy and prepare for the eleven day event. I appreciated all the assistance from fellow MGs especially as I was learning the details of my job.

My office hours will be Tuesday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

and a second day which will vary as my schedule allows."

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Several volunteer opportunities are coming up in September:

September 2 Senior Celebration at the Zoo

(Contact Nancy Hagar- [nhagar1@gmail.com](mailto:nhagar1@gmail.com))

September 10 & 11 Family Farm Days at the Zoo

(Contact Nancy Hagar- [nhagar1@gmail.com](mailto:nhagar1@gmail.com))

September 23, 24 & 25 Milwaukee County Fair at State Fair Park: Demonstrations, a SEWMG booth and the DNR garden will all be a part of the fair. Please call my office if you would like more details and /or volunteer.

Contact Nancy Lehrer-414 256-4661.

### **Continuing Education**

September 30 Brown Bag Teleconference- Topic: Perennials

October 21 Brown Bag Teleconference- Topic: Extending the Season for Raspberry Production

There was a short lapse in the MGV Hotline for the MGVs who do not have e-mail. It is now up-to-date. I will continue to update the phone message as new volunteer opportunities come in. The phone number is 414 256-4666

Enjoy a cooler and colorful fall!

Nancy Lehrer, MG Volunteer Coordinator



**Nancy Lehrer became  
our new Volunteer  
Coordinator**

## *Leadership Positions are available in 2012!*

You often hear about all the chances you have to get involved. There's a niche for every member of SEWMG. A dedicated crew of officers and board members help our organization remain strong. Officers and board members form the "glue" that holds our organization together.

New officers and some board members are added each year. Our bylaws limit the number of years a person may serve as an officer or board member. A person may be an officer or director for three consecutive terms

The elections will be held at our annual meeting, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Six leadership positions are available in 2012!

*Secretary*

*Treasurer*

*President Elect*

*Director at Large (two positions)*

*First year board member*

Are you willing to help lead SEWMG? Or do you have a nominee? Just contact a member of the leadership team – Janet Wintersberger, Patty Witt and Joy Towell. We will give you more information that will help guide your decision.

Janet Wintersberger, [jwintersberger@wi.rr.com](mailto:jwintersberger@wi.rr.com)

Patty Witt, [pwitt@wi.rr.com](mailto:pwitt@wi.rr.com)

Joy Towell, [joytowell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joytowell@sbcglobal.net)

## *Plant Sale Silent Auction Request*

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2012's Plant Sale's Silent Auction:

**Attention!** We would like to add some home-made garden crafts to our plants at our Auction. So, we're making a request to all of our creative MGVs to donate any original objects, from homemade things for the garden to

items that are "garden themed" for the home. For any questions or for more information or ideas please contact Mary Redlinger at [maryered@juno.com](mailto:maryered@juno.com) or 262-790-2665.



## Vegetable Garden Tour & More

**Our Master Gardeners volunteer at several area vegetable gardens in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. Take time to visit at least one of these gardens on August 27<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The vegetable gardens are in Brown Deer, Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, Brookfield & Sussex.**

The Garden Support Committee is very excited about the upcoming 'Vegetable Garden Tour' scheduled for **Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**. The below gardens will be open from **10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** so anyone interested in touring may do so during that timeframe.

**Fox 6 TV Green Thumb Garden Fox 6 Studio grounds**, Brown Deer Road at Green Bay Avenue, Brown Deer

**Ronald McDonald House Secret Garden**, 8948 Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa

**Havenwoods Heritage Garden**, 6141 N. Hopkins Street, Milwaukee

**Harvest for the Hungry Garden at Firefly**, 10602 Underwood Creek Parkway, Wauwatosa

**Sussex Outreach Garden**, N63 W23669 Silver Spring Drive, Sussex

**Eble Park Gardens** 19400 W. Bluemound Road, Brookfield

This event is open to the public, so let your family, friends and neighbors know about it. There will be MGVS present at all gardens to answer questions you may have regarding vegetable gardening.

We've also been working on our upcoming **Garden Chair Forum** which is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** We will publish an agenda when we get closer to the date of the event. This is mainly for the Approved Garden chairs, but all MGVS are welcome. The committee will furnish refreshments and snacks in case you need to come right from work.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> after the business meeting at UWEX Room 305.

Patty Witt & Mary Thiele  
Garden Support Committee Co-chairs

## President's Corner

The light is changing... as it always does this time of year. This, for me, is the first sign of the coming of fall. Gardeners enjoy all the seasons but, for most of us, summer is not long enough. (Yes, I know there is winter but you do your garden reading and ordering then, right?) I know you may still have some lilies, flowering hostas and all the rest of the unique blooms we have in our yards. Please take the time to simply enjoy the treasures you have right before you!!!

The new program chair people, Kathy Hochevar and Peg Fleury, have met with Doris Fons to put together the planning strategies. They will be announcing their meeting time to gather program ideas and will be asking for volunteers. This just might be your niche in the MG organization. Keep on the lookout. There is something just

right for all of us. You may find that you are involved with several gardens or committees and are enjoying it all.

A suggestion...I know that many of you are photographers and are documenting the plants in your garden. For some of us, this is a new step. It is not only to enrich our sense of beauty but also to help you remember what plants you may want to share for the plant sale. You still have time to add some lovely pictures to your 2012 collection! The plant sale committee is planning to have many more pictures to help our clients to recognize what they want in their gardens. Perhaps your pictures will be needed for the display.

Thanks for all you do!

Mary Thiele  
SEWMG President

## SEWMG Dates to Remember

Here is a brief rundown of the various meetings, Extension classes and deadlines for the next two months. Come and see what is happening.

**September 6 at 2:30 p.m.** Plant Health Update at UWEX Horticulture Center at Boerner Botanic Garden.

**September 7 at 6:30 p.m.** "Grasses in the Landscape" - Nancy Nedveck at Milwaukee UWEX office.

**September 14 at 9:30 a.m.** SEWMG Business Meeting at Waukesha UWEX office. In the Waukesha Courthouse

**September 15** Volunteer and Education hours due. Budget requests due. See article page 8.

**September 20 at 2:30 p.m.** Plant Health Update at UWEX Horticulture Center at Boerner Botanic Garden.

**September 28 at 1:00 p.m.** Start of Specialty Training at Boerner Botanic Garden. See article page 3.

**September 30 at noon** Brown Bag ETN at either UWEX office

**October 1** Newsletter Deadline

**October 5 at 1:00 p.m.** Specialty Training at Boerner Botanic Garden. See article page 3.

**October 12 at 1:00 p.m.** Specialty Training at Boerner Botanic Garden. See article page 3.

**October 14** International Conference in Charleston, WV.

**October 19 at 9:00 a.m.** "Roses and Herbs" - Helene Pizzi. Milwaukee UWEX office.

**October 19 at 1:00 p.m.** Specialty Training at Boerner Botanic Garden. See article page 3.

**October 21 at noon** Brown Bag ETN at either UWEX office



## *What is Next for the Horticulture Center?* By Patti Peltier

On October 31, the UW-Extension Horticulture Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens will complete its 5<sup>th</sup> growing season of connecting gardeners to UW-Extension horticulture resources. It will close its doors—but just for the winter.



Before we get to what's next, let's briefly review where we've been. Go back in time more than ten years. Sharon Morrissey identified a need for science-based education and information at Boerner Botanical Gardens. Visitors to the gardens often had general gardening questions or even specific questions about plants. They needed help diagnosing problems in their own gardens. The Milwaukee County Parks professional horticulture staff at Boerner didn't have time—nor in some cases the expertise—to answer all those questions.

This seemed to be a need that could be well met by UW-Extension's horticulture resources including its educators, state-wide specialists, university research-based publications and well-trained and enthusiastic Master Gardener Volunteers.



Working with the staff at Boerner and at Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens, a plan for the UW-Extension Horticulture Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens was devised. Over time, Sharon was joined by three UWEX horticulture educators in SE Wisconsin - Kristin Krokowski in Waukesha, Barb Larson in Kenosha, and Patti Nagai in Racine - to work out this plan. As always, money was a major sticking point. That problem was solved when the four members of the UWEX horticulture team applied for - and received - a grant from the US Department of Agriculture. Later, SEWMG generously provided supplemental contributions to help with operating expenses.

Since the UWEX Horticulture Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens opened in spring 2007, MGVs from SEWMG and Racine-Kenosha Master Gardener Associations have assisted hundreds of gardeners by answering general

gardening questions, providing plant diagnostics, dispensing university-research-based information and connecting home gardeners with UWEX staff and specialists.

Working through the Horticulture Center, MGVs have also provided added visibility for Extension by staffing the garden cart, tended plants in the sales yard, collected bloom time data that's available on the gardens' website and helped with a variety of public programs, including In Celebration of Trees and the plastic nursery pot recycling collection event. MGVs have also created a series of attractive and informative displays that provide useful information throughout the Education & Visitor Center.

That brings us to October 31 when USDA funding will end. There will, however, be enough program revenue generated over the last four years to provide for part-time UWEX staff during the 2012 growing season. After that, the center will be run entirely by MGVs.

So, when the UWEX Horticulture Center re-opens next spring, there will still be a UWEX staff person to serve as a coordinator and on-site go-to person. MGVs, who have been instrumental in the success of the Horticulture Center from the start, will take an increasing role in its daily operation. SEWMG Ilze Balodis-Larson has agreed to lead the volunteers at the Horticulture Center in 2012. She'll be assisted by MGVs who will take leadership responsibility for various programs sponsored by the UWEX Horticulture Center.

From the start, MGVs have provided an impressive array of talents from assembling the furniture to creating programs and displays to lending their diagnostic expertise. Together, we've created a valuable resource for gardeners throughout the region. It's something of which everyone involved can feel very proud. I am!

**MGV Faouzi Kabloui takes on the challenge of staffing the 11 day State Fair. We thank Faouzi for his role in coordinating our show events and also thank all the MGVs who helped make this year's event successful.**

## *State Fair Report 2011* by MGV Faouzi Kabloui

**Visitors:** Total number of visitors was about 61,181 based on 5-minute counts every hour. Last year the number was 71,520. I think the difference was due to changes made in youth activities.

**Brochures:** This year we distributed 9,213 brochures while last year the number was 9,721. The most requested brochures were: Butterfly Gardening 1685, Gardening Resources 1554 and Trouble-free Tomatoes 662.

**Youth Activities:** The DNR made some changes on the children's passport which reduced the number of children.

I hope we can create something new for ourselves in the future.

**Points of Interest:** Butterfly garden, shade plants, composting, Creeping Charlie and Japanese Beetles.

**General comments:** Questions about plants that attract hummingbirds, soil testing kits, and a few plants that were not labeled.

Three MGVs did not meet their commitments despite reminder calls from shift captains.

## *‘In-House’ Educational Program Co-chairs & Planning*

We're pleased that two well-qualified MGVs have stepped up to co-chair the new "In-house" Educational Program. Their first planning meeting is scheduled for early September. They are anxious to have all our members work with them to provide the programs our members want. Take a moment to read about Peg and Kathy and then mark your calendar for September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Peg Fleury

My first contact with SEWMG was a long time ago when I met some volunteers at a home and garden show and was impressed with the organization's purpose and outreach. Ten years ago, I took the job of adult education coordinator for Friends of Boerner Botanical Garden. I again became aware of SEWMG, signed up for my first training class and was hooked.

Later I took a grant-funded position with Milwaukee County UWEX working with SEWMG volunteers who did outreach diagnostic programs at farmers' markets, special events, etc. Since then, "hands on" hort experience includes working at a garden center and teaching container gardening classes at Alverno College. As a free-lance writer for the Outpost Natural Foods monthly magazine, my work included a quarterly gardening column. All those SEWMG classes and UWEX resources were very helpful.

Program planning experience includes coordinating the Ewens Center non-credit programs at Mount Mary College and arranging the annual lecture series at Villa Terrace.

I look forward to planning programs again using the great resources of SEWMG, UWEX and all those talented people in the green industry who have so much knowledge to share.

### Kathy Hochevar

Having completed General Training in spring of 2009, I volunteered at Ten Chimneys marveling at the beauty of gardens there and the spirit, commitment and passion of the Master Gardeners who worked endlessly to keep the gardens flourishing. During the past two years, I've enjoyed gardening with Milwaukee Public School students challenged by visual and hearing impairments, home schooled children, and kids participating in library garden programs. At the heart of most of these gardeners, young and wizened, is the thirst to learn and get their hands dirty. Watch a seed sprout, feel the texture of a flower petal, smell the aroma of a leaf and be pleased to be a part of it. Nurturing plants creates a garden and the process creates great human beings.

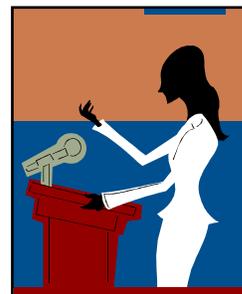
Understanding that we SEWMG members have the responsibility of growing our educations as Master Gardeners, I am excited to co-chair the In-House Educational Programs Committee with Peg Fleury. My goal is to provide members with interesting, timely and well-rounded programs that will assist you to be great Master Gardeners and continue the process of creating great human beings. Please contact me on line [khoch\\_15@hotmail.com](mailto:khoch_15@hotmail.com) or by phone 262.538.4189 with any topic suggestions you have or if you would like to join the committee. I look forward to meeting many of you at 2012 educational programs.

Bring your ideas for speakers and topics to the education program committee meeting **Monday, September 12th, at 6:30 p.m.** at the

UWEX office on Watertown Plank. We'll be brainstorming for 2012 in-house programs and appreciate your input. If you aren't able to come, send us your ideas or give us a call. We appreciate it!

Peg Fleury [pegfleury@att.net](mailto:pegfleury@att.net) 414-476-1116

Kathy Hochevar [khoch\\_15@hotmail.com](mailto:khoch_15@hotmail.com) 262-538-4189



**Bring your ideas for speakers and topics to the education program committee meeting Monday, September 12th, at 6:30 p.m. at the UWEX office on Watertown Plank.**

**We'll be brainstorming for 2012 in-house programs and appreciate your input. If you aren't able to come, send us your ideas or give us a call. We appreciate it!**

**Peg Fleury 414-476-1116**

**Kathy Hochevar 262-538-4189**

## *Program Committee News*

**September 7, 2011 at 6:30 p. m.** at the Milwaukee County UW Extension Office - Nancy Nedveck from the Flower Factory, "Grasses in the Landscape."

**October 19, 2011 at 9 a.m.** at the Milwaukee County UW Extension Office - Helene Pizzi "Roses & Herbs." Helene is an International Rose Judge who lives in Italy and also has a home in Wauwatosa.  
Doris Fons, SEWMG Program Chair



## My Favorite Plant by Patty Witt MGV

I have many favorites, but if I had to pick one, it would be *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Weed). I love the bright orange color and it blooms from June – August. An herbaceous perennial, this plant grows in zones 3-9. Eventually, the plant forms a bush 1-3 feet tall and about 1.5 feet across. My *Asclepias tuberosa*, a Missouri native, has proven to be drought tolerant and even does well in poor soil. Unlike many other milkweeds, this species does not have milky-sapped stems.

The plant's name *Asclepias* evolved from the Greek god of medicine, Asklepios. Over the years, the plant has been used for many of man's medical problems including salves for swellings, snow blindness, sore throat relief, rashes, colic, snakebites, and tapeworms among other things. Native Americans used its root for bronchial and pulmonary ailments. But there are cautionary warnings about the plant being toxic if prepared incorrectly.

Propagation can be done by collecting the

seedpods in the fall. Be sure to gather the pods carefully so as to avoid them opening and spreading the seeds by the wind. Rhizome cuttings can also accomplish propagation when the plant is dormant. Plant the rhizome in late fall to help it develop enough root growth to survive the winter.

The *Asclepias tuberosa*'s beautiful blooms produce copious amounts of nectar. That nectar is a food source for many butterflies. The leaves are also a food source for monarch butterfly larvae (caterpillars). The milkweed is the only type of plant on which the eggs are laid. The eggs are deposited on the underside of the leaves. Then, the larvae will feed and mature into a chrysalis. The butterflies store the cardiac glycosides produced by the plant and hence become distasteful and even dangerous to predators. Since developing my plants, my home garden has been placed on the migratory route for the Monarch butterfly. These butterflies enrich my garden and my life, all thanks to *Asclepias tuberosa*.



## September 15<sup>th</sup> is the Day by MGVs Patty Witt & Ruth Marshal

Essential News for MGVs, and Garden/Project Chairs

### All MGVs

Please turn hard copies of your volunteer and education hours into the Milwaukee County Extension Office, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa 53226-3552 by September 15. You can download the form from [documents](#) in either word or pdf format. A "how to report hours" and a sample form can also be downloaded at the same site. *We're sorry, the extension cannot accept electronic files.*

To retain/attain certification: MGVs need to report at least **24 volunteer hours** on approved gardens/projects, educating youth or assisting UW Extension horticulture staff and to report at least **10 hours** of continuing education. It's important to report all hours you accumulated between September 16, 2010 and September 15, 2011. You can count education hours earned at programs sponsored by SEWMG, on SEWMG bus trips or many other hort-related activities.

Save a stamp, and send your \$10 membership dues in with your timesheets. 2012 dues are not due until November 1<sup>st</sup>, but now is a great time to use the membership form in the newsletter and send them in.

### All Garden and Project Chairs Annual Reports

September 15<sup>th</sup> is also the day all gardens and projects must turn in their annual report. You can

download the form from [documents](#) in either word or pdf format. Copies of these reports should be sent to the **Finance Committee**, Milwaukee County Extension Office, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa 53226-3552.

### 2012 Budget Requests

All gardens and project funding requests (for 2012) must also be submitted by September 15<sup>th</sup>. You can download the form from [documents](#) in either word or pdf format. Please make sure the **Finance Committee** receives the annual report and the budget requests in the same envelope. Any request that lacks an annual report will cause delays.

**The Finance Committee** will begin working on the 2012 budget once the requests are in. Several working sessions are planned. The budget will be presented to all MGVs on Saturday, November 5 at 9:30 am. SEWMG members will approve the budget on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Meeting/Holiday Party.

In 2010 the Finance Committee recommended that SEWMG must begin matching its expenses with its revenues. Some of you may know that this year's Perennial Plant Sale was not as profitable as in recent years. Whether it was this spring's weather, the economy or less media attention, no one knows. But it does mean the Finance Committee members will carefully scrutinize the 2012 budget.

**Essential News  
for MGVs, and  
Garden/Project  
Chairs**

## Teaching Gardening to Children by Glenda Prom-Stanlick MGW

As Master Gardeners, we certainly appreciate and understand the value of teaching and sharing what we know with children and adults alike. In my work as a psychotherapist, I was drawn to take the troubled adolescents I worked with outdoors for group therapy as well as individual sessions. There was something about swaying in a swing in the midst of a garden that was calming, centering and therapeutic not only for my client but for myself.

After I had my second child and decided to stay at home for a few years, I still felt those gardens calling me to be outside and I realized some very basic values I wanted to teach my own children. I wanted them to understand how hard farmers (like their great grandparents) work to grow the food we eat. I remember as a child helping with the harvest; blanching and freezing bushels of corn and green beans, canning pickles, tomatoes, and cooking apples for homemade sauce. I remember complaining as I pushed heads of cabbage back and forth over the slicer, "I don't eat the sauerkraut WHY do I have to help make it?" My husband lovingly calls me a "pickle snob" because I really won't eat store bought pickles since I prefer those made by my mother using my grandmother's recipe and now I make them myself for my family.

Perhaps I was organic before organic was trendy, because I learned at an early age that nothing tasted better than my grandfather's sweet corn on the dinner plate in February. When one realizes the effort involved in growing food, I think it teaches appreciation, empathy and respect for others which results in less finicky behavior at the dinner table. It is also a great way to spend time together as a family.

It is important to get my three kids in the garden with me as much as possible and I would like to share a few of my tips and suggestions in order for you to do the same. Of course, every child is different so the gardener must adapt - just as our plants do!

The most important thing is to keep trying and be persistent in getting them involved. I try to include my kids in various steps of the process. They enjoy looking at plants and seeds and I have found a few nurseries and greenhouses that have play areas or a train display that really help me as a parent and gardener. I tell my children that Mommy gets some fun time to look and they will get fun time to play and enjoy as well.

In choosing seeds it's helpful and fun to look at pictures on the packages since it helps children connect an abstract idea that the contents of an envelope will be put in the ground and turn into something. For example, my son Noah insisted on the pumpkin seeds that had a great jack-o-lantern pictured on the package. As we look

at the wonderful vines, he is patiently waiting for those pumpkins to show up so he can carve them in time for Halloween. That made the idea more concrete and real for a four-year old.

Children enjoy their own equipment like small gloves, hats, shovels, buckets and watering cans to make them feel included. When they see me getting my equipment, it is exciting to get their items to work alongside me. They also need the adult eye to help develop their observation skills.

Kids can be concrete and, if the vegetable or flower isn't there quickly, they are easily disappointed, so point out the progress the plant is making. Has the color changed at all? Does the plant look thirsty? Is it taller or wider than yesterday or last week? My kids have even seen things that I miss, like a nasty bug parked on a leaf; or their little hands can reach farther in to get tomatoes that can only be seen from their vantage point.

I try to give them lots of verbal praise for being great helpers and, when they have decided they have had enough, I try not to push them past their limit. Most of all make it fun. It helps them grow emotionally when they see adults try something new; sometimes we succeed and sometimes we fail.

My kids had great fun sifting through the dirt in the pot to harvest the potatoes we planted, trying to find them all. It was a big mystery and game. When we had only filled a small bucket, my daughter looked at me and said, "We did pretty good! Especially because this is the first time we tried this!" Such amazing wisdom from a seven-year old! I couldn't have agreed more.

Herbs are another great item to grow with kids. Since I like to freeze a lot of mine for use during the winter, the kids enjoy having their own (safety) scissors and cutting thyme, mint, rosemary, sage, oregano, dill, parsley and cilantro. They help me pull the leaves from the stems and place them in baby food jars for the freezer. Their little fingers love pulling the plants apart and shoving them into little containers. Homemade mint ice cream or fresh dill in a potato or pasta salad is wonderful and I get less complaining about flavors when they know they helped, and I tend to have less wasted food as well.

So, as I watch and observe other parents being on the constant go, I am hopeful that staying at home a bit and tending to the garden is economical (no membership fees) and provides quality family time, as well as making positive contributions to my children's physical and emotional health. I wish you the best in teaching gardening to the children you love in your life!



**Now a stay-at-home mother of three, Glenda joined SEWMG about three years ago to become a better gardener and to stay in touch with the adult world. Her children (Josie 8, Noah 4 and Caleb 1) inspire her with their love for learning and finding immense joy in the simple things life has to offer.**

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[HTTP://MILWAUKEE.UWEX.EDU/  
HORTICULTURE/MG/](http://MILWAUKEE.UWEX.EDU/HORTICULTURE/MG/)

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Mailed with this issue:

- September/October Events
- Time Sheet with instructions
- Membership Form



*For more information:*

**Calendar Hotline (MGV Hotline)**

414-256-4666

**On the Web**

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

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**UWEX Waukesha County 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.*