Milwaukee County Executive, Chris Abele recently made a brief breakfast visit with the staff and volunteers of the Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension. While presenting a proclamation recognizing and congratulating UW-Extension on our 100th year of service to residents of Wisconsin, he acknowledged the value of education and the important educational role of UW-Extension. Moreover, he vowed his support of Extension for the duration of his tenure in office. Phew! It is nice to know we don’t need to fear the annual county budget process for a couple more years.

Each staff person who leads a program area in our office was invited to present the impact of our work to the County Exec. To keep on schedule with the agenda for the morning, we were asked to keep our comments to 5 – 7 sentences. Here is what I presented to convey the impact of our work together in horticulture.

UW-Extension provides “learning for life” and in horticulture that is so much more than “just gardening.”

It’s learning to identify and manage invasive species like garlic mustard, buckthorn and emerald ash borer.

Finally, it’s learning to help children grow and understand the ecosystems of which they are part.

We do all this through the mass media especially Fox6TV and with the help of about 450 UW-Extension trained Master Gardener volunteers who perform over 21,000 hours of service each year for educational programs and projects in their communities.

(Okay, so that was 9 sentences – you know how I tend to run on at times. I actually did better than many of my fellow program coordinators.)

If you think you could ever use this to tell people what UW-Extension Horticulture does, feel free.

Thanks to the several MGVs who attended the event. Thanks to all of you for helping UW-Extension and me do such important work. We should all feel proud of the ways we impact people’s lives.
Level 1 training registration
By mid-July everyone should receive a webpage link to the registration brochure for the 2012 Level 1 MGV Training for Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. Please pass this along to anyone you know who might be interested in becoming a MGV. Everyone who gave us an e-mail address to be placed on our mailing list since December of 2010 (the last class started in January of 2011) will receive an e-mail with the link, too. Anyone without an e-mail address will receive a registration brochure in the mail.

Although the list is larger than it has ever been before, everyone has the same chance of getting into the class since all registrations are on a first come, first served basis. It’s important that people return their completed registration materials ASAP.

The daytime class is being held at the Government Center of the Waukesha County Courthouse on Mondays from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. beginning on September 10th and ending on December 3rd. The evening class is being held at Boerner Botanical Gardens on Thursdays from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. beginning on September 6th and ending on December 13th. Each class has 13 sessions but there is no class on a couple of days resulting in the different time spans for the two classes.

Plant Health Updates continue
These timely sessions look at plant development, weather and pest problems being reported locally by MGVs and around the state using several web and teleconference sources to gather information about the latest outbreaks. These sessions are especially helpful to MGVs who serve as Plant Health Advisors but also need a team to place labels on as many of the plants as possible. Announcements of these workdays will be e-mailed to the group list. If you want to work in the office helping Nancy, contact her at 414-256-4661 or nancy.lehrer@ces.uwex.edu. If you want to work on labeling plants, contact Sharon at 414-256-4660 or sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex.edu.

State Fair Orientation for Volunteers
There will again be two sessions to orient volunteers to the ‘Model Backyard’ display, its exhibits, plants, and logistics of working a shift at the Fair. Orientations will be on Tuesday, July 31st at 6:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, August 1st at 9:30 a.m. Anyone signed-up to work a shift should try to attend one of these sessions. All Shift Captains should plan to attend one or the other. Enter the DNR Natural Resources Park from the back through the double gate used for the Plant Sale. This is at the Greenfield Avenue end of the Park, west of the Expo Center. There should be no charge for parking on either of these days.

Milwaukee County Fair
Believe it or not, fall is right around the corner and that means the Milwaukee County Fair. It is being held the last weekend of September again starting on Friday evening, September 28th through Sunday, September 30th. We would like assistance from MGVs again for setting up on Wednesday the 26th and Thursday the 27th. We will need MGVs to answer plant questions throughout the weekend. MGVs can also staff the ‘Model Backyard’ composting and butterfly garden. Again this year we will be scheduling demonstration talks hourly on Saturday and Sunday on topics such as composting, worm composting, growing hostas and daylilies, dividing perennials, preserving herbs or fruits and vegetables, and many more. If you would like to give a 30-minute demonstration on a subject, contact MGV Mary Vitrano at mary.vitrano@ces.uwex or at 414-256-4600.

State Fair Here Soon
Volunteer sign-up for the Fair began in late May and the Fair runs from August 2nd through the 12th. Nancy will need some help in the office getting hand-outs ready. We will need someone to pack up some reference books and take them to the shed to use to answer gardening questions. We will probably schedule a workday for grooming, compost pile maintenance and woodchips. We also need a team to place labels on as many of the plants as possible. Announcements of these workdays will be e-mailed to the group list. If you want to work in the office helping Nancy, contact her at 414-256-4661 or nancy.lehrer@ces.uwex.edu. If you want to work on labeling plants, contact Sharon at 414-256-4660 or sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex.edu.

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.
The In-house education committee will meet this summer to plan the 2012-2013 programs so watch your newsletters for program information as it develops. New committee members are always most welcome!! No in-house programs are planned for this summer.

Leftover Plants from Plant Sale Go to a Good Home

I would like to express my appreciation for the many flats of leftover perennial plants that were given to me on the Monday after the SEWMGV Plant Sale. Our office does educational programming in three HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area neighborhoods in the central city of Waukesha. These areas receive this designation because at least 51% of the residents have a low or moderate income. Over the next few weeks co-workers and I will be sharing your donated plants with residents in these neighborhoods as we hold block watch meetings, neighborhood gatherings, community garden kick-offs, educational programs, and beautification events. We have already shared these plants with two groups of residents. Residents were very appreciative of these plants and were very excited about this donation. Many, many thanks! If you would like more information about my work in these neighborhoods, feel free to drop me an e-mail or give me a call.

Ann Wied
Consumer Horticulture Educator/Community Development Educator
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This year's plant sale was a huge success. Officially, there were six co-chairs for the annual perennial sale event – Ed Kraus, Bill Shaffer, Carla Bradshaw, Diane Thieme, Linda Ziebell, and Patty Witt. Over 100 master gardeners worked during the sale on May 19th, and countless others were involved in the day-to-day efforts during the six-week period leading up to the event.

A big round of applause for everyone who contributed to our organization's only fundraiser – those who gave plants to the Pot-A-Thons, trucked materials and supplies, potted plants at the pot-a-thons, labeled each pot, ‘fed the crew’, nurtured the plants and helped organized the thousands of plants at the state fair park grounds.

Many more activities occur behind-the-scenes, the planning, scheduling, communicating, preparing sale-day information and cleaning-up.

Here are brief introductions to just three people who worked behind the scenes with MGV Patty Witt to harvest the perennials for the Pot-A-Thons and the ultimate sale.

MGV Diane Thieme

“When I was considering retirement from teaching in 2008, I told a friend that when I retired I was going to finally get to the Calatrava Art Museum. He laughed and said “What are you going to do with the other 364 days?” I didn’t retire! That summer, I went to State Fair’s butterfly garden and met my first Master Gardener. She told me about the program, and I decided that was something I wanted to do. I was already doing volunteer work, and I loved gardening. It seemed to be a perfect match. I retired in 2009 and took the class that winter. I loved it and my table classmates!!

Besides the plant sale, Diane works, primarily, at the North Point Light House, Dousman Stagecoach Inn and on the Invasive Species Removal Team. Diane has a rose garden, perennial garden, and a small shade garden.

MGV Linda Ziebell

“This has been my 3rd year working at the Pot-A-Thons. And, it’s the 2nd year of being one of ‘Patty Girls,’ a group of master gardeners that pre-dig the plants that are potted at a Pot-A-Thon.

I initially got involved after general training because it met my goal to fill volunteer hours as soon as possible. And, I wanted to learn the plant sale process from beginning to end. As I went through the plant sale process, I realized that there were many benefits of participating. These are some of mine, and I’m sure there are others for Master Gardener Volunteers.

I can obtain volunteer hours quickly. It provides the opportunity to see and learn about plants that grow in all kinds of soil and types of gardens. My garden is mostly shade, so I’ve been able to see what plants other shade gardeners and what grows in sun gardens. I use this information when asked questions by family and friends who are looking for advice and at the plant sale when talking to customers. It gives me the chance to see a lot of different plants and exposure to their botanical names. Always a challenge for me.

The plant sale co-leaders are a great group of people with whom to work. They are always ready to let new-bees try out roles that keep the plant sale process working smoothly.

It’s a great way to meet many fellow master gardeners who are willing to share their garden stories and advice.”

This summer, Linda will be volunteering at the Wilson Center’s Strohmaier Sculpture & Botanical Garden. She is also serving as our organization’s Secretary.

MGV Sue Ratkowski

“I have enjoyed gardening since I was a pre-teenager. I grew up in a large family and we had a huge garden. Each spring we would get a number of rows assigned to us to take care of all summer. I was one of the younger ones so each year more siblings left home. Pretty soon it was just two of us taking care of the whole garden.

My husband is responsible for getting me in Master Gardening. He signed me up and gave it to me for Christmas. (He obviously knew I had an interest.) Master Gardening has not only helped me with my own yard but has helped me with my volunteer work at my church. I help take care of the property by doing a little of everything.

As for my volunteer service, I am one of Patty Witt’s diggers and I work through the sale. After that I spend my time working for the church, so I don’t work at any approved garden. I don’t have time. I’m trying to get more help at church so I could work at one of the gardens.”

Sue has a mix of plants in her own garden. Her favorite flowers are Asiatic or Oriental Lilies. She says, “I really have a hard time picking a favorite; each one is the favorite when it is blooming.”

Focusing on our MGVs - by MGV Janet Wintersberger
Congratulations to all of you who made the 17th annual Plant Sale a huge success and, specifically, a big thank you to the plant sale committee of Bill, Ed, Patty, Carla and Diane. The frequent comments I was hearing on that Saturday morning was how well the Plant Sale was organized and how friendly and helpful the volunteer Master Gardeners were. So, a job well done! Many of you can now hopefully find some time to plant your own gardens and spend some relaxing time around your own plants.

Our summer picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, August 18th from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. This year we will be holding it at the Program Center of Ten Chimneys. We will have a main entree of ham sandwiches and we ask that you bring a dish to pass. Bill and Ed will be bringing the adult beverages and soda and water will be available. So, mark your calendars and dig out your favorite picnic recipes. If you are not a gourmet chef or have no picnic recipes, you can contact me for other suggestions.

For those of you who have not visited this National Historical Site, Ten Chimneys is located approximately 25 miles from the Extension Office. Take I-94 west to the Highway 83 exit. Turn left on 83 and travel 7 miles to Genesee Depot. Turn right at the sharp curve and go one block and turn left at the Ten Chimneys gates. Parking is somewhat limited and tours are still scheduled until 4:00 p.m. so it would be best to car pool if possible. We will be using the lower patio area which is accessible by the outside stairs or the elevator in the Program Center. You are welcomed to tour the Center and visit the gift shop and display featuring Clagget Wilson who painted the wonderful murals found in the Lunt’s home. I look forward to seeing you on August 18th.

The heat of summer is upon us! We dream of this all winter! Enjoy the sun, sit back with a glass of lemonade and read on!

The summer volunteer opportunities are abundant. Most of the approved gardens have regularly scheduled work days. Go to the SEWMG web site and tab “Volunteer.” Scroll down the page and you will find the list of approved gardens. Locate the garden nearest you and call the contact person for the scheduled work days. If you are on the Master Gardener Listserve, you will get all updates on the garden work days.

MGV website: http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/

Other opportunities that have been scheduled include:

State Fair
  Pre-fair clean up and set up

Fair dates - August 2nd-12th
  Milwaukee County Fair
  Pre-fair set up
  Demonstrations or talks are needed during the fair

Fair dates September 28th - 30th
  Milwaukee County Zoo
  Zoo a la Carte August 16th - 19th
  Family Farm Weekend September 8th & 9th

Reminder:
If you don’t get e-mails, you can come to the MG workroom at the Milwaukee Extension office and view all e-mails in the Listserve binder. Please take advantage of this service.

Cheers! Nancy Lehrer 414 256-4661
Our Very Special Gardens
by Garden Support Committee

We often find ourselves so busy to see beyond our own volunteer projects. Here's your chance to broaden your horizons! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 23** and Monday, **June 25**. Those are the dates that WE will be offering free tours of seven unique garden projects.

**On Saturday, June 23 from 10 am. to 2 pm.**
You’ll enjoy:
- The Victorian gardens at the **Kneeland-Walker House**
- The beautiful and hidden gardens of “The Secret Garden” at the Ronald McDonald House
- The Rain and Native Gardens at the **Sussex Outreach Services**

**On Monday, June 25 from 4 pm. to 8 pm.**
You’ll enjoy:
- The extensive gardens at Ten Chimneys Gardens at the **Oconomowoc Arts Center**
- The Oasis garden at **Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital**
- The Rain garden at Pewaukee Public Library

You’ll find the details about locations and gardens below and on our website [http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/files/2011/03/Our-Very-Special-Gardens-full-description.pdf](http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/files/2011/03/Our-Very-Special-Gardens-full-description.pdf)

**Kneeland-Walker House of the Wauwatosa Historical Society**
7406 W. Hillcrest Dr., Wauwatosa

A late Victorian flavor is maintained in the manicured gardens through the use of many annuals. The gardens reflect a love of color, form, and innovation. They represent the feel of the gardens. Many varieties did not exist when the house which was built in the 1890’s. Master Gardener volunteers feel that the use of the plants which were not available at the turn of the 20th century are in the true turn of the century spirit of embracing striking new plants.

**Ronald McDonald House Secret Garden**
8948 Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa

Located behind the cedar gate is a private, safe and tranquil respite for Ronald McDonald House guest families, staff and occasional visitors. It is a world where the sounds and smells and textures and colors of nature call you to a place of peace and solace.

**Sussex Outreach Services (S.O.S.)**
N63 W23669 Silver Spring Dr., Sussex

Three gardens at the center demonstrate small garden design, interplanting, vertical plantings and square foot gardening. These gardens enhance the mission of SOS by providing examples of environmentally friendly solutions and education.

The rain garden blooms throughout the season and demonstrates one way to reduce rain water runoff. The native landscape garden demonstrates the use of natives in an urban landscape. It blooms throughout the season, providing beauty, yet needing fewer resources than non-native plantings.

**Ten Chimneys Historic Landmark**
Depot Road, Genesee Depot

Master Gardener volunteers are responsible for the many flower beds, planters, and pots throughout the Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine estate. The volunteers’ mission is to evoke the gardens of the 1960’s—the Lunts’ last years spent at Ten Chimneys. The gardeners are provided an extensive plant order list, many historical photos, and correspondence indicating the flowers that were planted and, therefore, the plants to choose from.

Understanding that conditions and cultivars have evolved since that time, the volunteers attempt to stay true to Alfred and Lynn’s choices.

**Oconomowoc Arts Center**
641 E. Forest, Oconomowoc

After the initial landscaping of the fine arts center was completed in 2008, Master Gardener volunteers became involved with the center for additional design and maintenance. The redesign has included moving spirea, sage, and cotoneaster. With the landscape contractor’s approval, lilies and heucheras are being transplanted and a large variety of several dozen new perennials are being added to a renovated area. Master Gardener Volunteers work with Oconomowoc High School students in the landscaping class who help with planting, mulching and pruning.

**Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital Emergency Department Oasis Garden**
791 Summit Ave., Oconomowoc

This garden was an unused, unsightly gravel and concrete area, that has been turned into spot where patients, families, visitors and hospital staff can go to for a relaxing break and to relieve stress by sitting in the sun, admiring the flowers and other features of the garden.

The gardeners have partnered with the hospital’s Dietary Department and the 791 Bistro Cafeterias by growing herbs for the kitchen. So, please stop by to admire the nature that is so healing for the body and spirit, and take a minute to rejuvenate and recharge!

**Pewaukee Public Library Rain Garden**
210 Main St., Pewaukee

This rain garden was planted in 2006 when the library was required by the local plan commission to have approximately 7000 square feet of detention area on the property to keep run-off from the roof and parking lot on the property. Volunteers from the Asa Clark Middle School, the Pewaukee High School Environmental Science Club and the Pewaukee River Partnership planted 7000 native perennials in the ‘rain garden’ in an attempt to beautify and detain the run-off on the sloping site.

Master Gardener volunteers are responsible for maintaining the rain garden.


We want to share our gardens with everyone.
Remember the tours are free!

Garden Support Committee
Milwaukee Organic Gardening Club’s Demo Garden  
by MGV Rosalie Robison

In February 2009, Dennis Lukaszewski from the UW-Ext. offices approached the Milwaukee Organic Gardening Club, in existence since 1954, at their monthly meeting with a proposal. He offered the group a permanent garden plot in the Firefly Ridge community gardens on the county grounds in Underwood Parkway off Watertown Plank Rd. and Hwy. 100. It was to be a Demo Garden and would show different examples of gardening practices such as square foot, raised beds, vertical growing, three sisters, container gardening, companion planting, espalier and permaculture. Sustainability and permanence were the goals.

The irregular shaped plot stood at the highest point on the grounds, unobstructed and windy. The parcel contained two small apple trees and mega weeds. Members discussed the project in their following meetings. Undaunted, those in favor accepted the challenge. In March, some members from the club went to survey the plot. They laughed. They talked. What could be done with this? By July they had a plan. In October they named two garden chairs and prospects were off and running.

By April of 2010, the first trial gardens were ready to come alive. Composted leaf mulch was mixed with soil to amend it. A few raised garden beds were installed. An example of lasagna gardening with layered newspapers was erected. Other portable containers were placed around the inside perimeter and some perennials, such as strawberries, were planted. Tomatoes, peppers, parsley and potatoes filled others. Perennial herbs like hyssop and lemon balm were planted. Other annual vegetables, herbs and flowers were added in May.

The two symmetrical apple trees became the focal point for an eventual entrance gate. In staying with this symmetry, two wooden benches were placed, one on each side of the apple trees. Vertical trellis on the ends of a small raised bed allowed vegetables or flowers to climb. A wire compost bin was erected in one of the inside corners of the garden.

By the second year, 2011, postholes were dug and posts installed around the perimeter. A wire fence was added later with a gate wide enough for any disabled person to enter the Demo Garden. More raised beds were constructed. A permanent vertical structure using ladders was erected for growing grapes. Several fruit trees were purchased by the club and planted along the back fence as an example of espalier growing. More perennials were added like chives and coneflowers. Later in the summer giant sunflowers loomed above the wire fences. Pumpkins, squash and beans were planted for the fall Milwaukee County Fair demonstration.

Two members attended a permaculture workshop and the club focused more on sustainability.

The club has raspberry and gooseberry bushes and will incorporate grape vines.

The last two years, a boy scout troop visited and worked in the gardens. Many gardeners with other plots have stopped by to ask us gardening questions and advice. We have gladly exchanged tips. Other visitors have come to see what the Demo Garden is all about. Deborah Mauhar and Peggy McGuire and I are Master Gardeners, while Barbara Nichols is a former Master Gardener. We encourage anyone interested in the Demo Garden to stop by during the planting, growing and harvesting seasons.

We will continue to expand in 2012 and will soon have a composter that will be purchased from a donation in honor of a longtime past club member who was a proponent for composting.

This is an ongoing project.

To see photos of our Demo Garden, please go to our web site: http://milwaukeeorganicgardening.org/
For more information:

Calendar Hotline (MGV Hotline) 414-256-4666
On the Web http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/
Sharon Morrisey (Consumer Hort. Agent, Milwaukee) 414-256-4660; sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex.edu
Ann Wied (Consumer Hort. Educator, Waukesha) 262-548-7788; ann.wied@ces.uwex.edu
Kathy Bosetti Reese (Program Assistant) 414-256-4600; kathy.reese@ces.uwex.edu
Nancy Lehrer (Volunteer Coordinator) 414-256-4661, nancy.lehrer@ces.uwex.edu

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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.