



President's Corner

by Pat Adrian

As I write this column in March, there is still a pretty good blanket of snow on my yard. Today is the first day above freezing since January, and not a single tip of a daffodil is poking up. But...soon!!

I spoke about our Perennial Plant Sale in the March Newsletter. I hope you are planning to help with our Plant Sale setup (May 11th-13th) and, of course, help at the sale on Saturday, May 16th. For the many of you who will help at Pot-A-Thons, thank you! We still need your help during sale week and the following Monday when plants are still available for the public and garden chairs before Habitat for Humanity takes all the rest of the plants. As we say with any volunteer effort, come when you can and leave when you must. This event funds most of the SEWMG activities during the year as well as donations and scholarships. We couldn't do it without you!

SEWMG leaders nominated our annual Perennial Plant Sale for the International Master Gardener Search for Excellence Award in December 2014. Unfortunately, we have been notified that we did not place in the top three for the 2015 competition. We learned from the judges' comments that we could improve our nomination by emphasizing the educational aspects of the sale, as well

as the number of people impacted by the sale. Live and learn - but, we send our congratulations to the Search for Excellence winners!

We all receive a lot of SEWMG-related e-mail. As an organization with 654 members, there are always events and announcements that must be communicated. Please be careful when replying to e-mail addressed to all Master Gardeners - choose the "Reply to Sender" option. Otherwise, we all get an extra message that is typically of interest to only the person who initially sent the e-mail.

Use the SEWMG address list (ListServe) judiciously. Of course, we use it for official SEWMG business. Yes it has been helpful to know when Stein's has 90% off of their spring-flowering bulbs. But, it's probably best to discuss personal business through private e-mail to fewer recipients. Don't forget to check our Web site regularly. Judy Williamson updates it frequently to keep you current about future events.

Furthermore, recent newsletters are a great resource for learning about the wide variety of gardens supported by SEWMG. Let me know if there is other information you would find helpful to your gardening and volunteer efforts.

Plant Sale Opportunities*

April & May Pot-A-Thons

- ☼ Trailer drivers
- ☼ Diggers
- ☼ Potters
- ☼ Labelers

May 11th, 12th & 13th **

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- ☼ Set up at State Fair
- ☼ Drivers
- ☼ Sled runners
- ☼ Stagers
- ☼ Food servers

May 15th, Pre-Sale (MGVs only) 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.

May 16th, Sale Day 7:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- ☼ Sale advisors
- ☼ Plant specialists
- ☼ Crowd control
- ☼ Personal shoppers
- ☼ Plant Health Advisors
- ☼ Talliers
- ☼ Cashiers
- ☼ Sled runners
- ☼ Plant sitters
- ☼ Clean-up

May 18th, Post Sale Garden chairs select plants 8:45 - 10:00 a.m.

- ☼ Clean-up
- ☼ Move out

**Come when you can; leave when you must*

***Lots of help needed on Monday, May 11th and Tuesday, May 12th*

Highlights inside this issue

Time Sheet Reminder	3
In-House Education	7
Trips and Tours	8
Have Information Will Share	9
4 Gardens in the MGs at Work series starts on	10



Pot-A-Thon Schedule for Spring 2015

At times, the schedule may change due to weather. Be sure to check ListServe e-mails for updates before leaving home.

Dig Date	Name	Time	Address
Fri., Apr, 17th	Patty Witt	9:00 a.m.	16508 W. Melody Ct. New Berlin, WI
Sat., Apr. 18th	Eble Park	9:00 a.m.	19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI
Mon., Apr. 20th	Diane Sachs (Mary Sachs)	9:00 a.m.	14425 Westover Rd. Elm Grove, WI 53122
Tues., Apr. 21st	Bill Shaffer	9:00 a.m.	12224 Elmhurst Pkwy Wauwatosa, WI
Wed., Apr. 22nd	Free Day		
Thurs., Apr. 23rd	Ed Kraus	9:00 a.m.	11625 W. James Ave. Franklin, WI 53132
Fri., Apr. 24st	Free Day		
Sat., April 25th	Eble Park	9:00 a.m.	19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI
Mon., Apr.27th	Free Day		
Tues., Apr. 28th	Colleen Hulen	9:00 a.m.	W325 N7110 Clearwater Dr. Hartland, WI 53029
Wed., Apr. 29th	Carolyn Hofman	9:00 a.m.	3780 N. Calhoun Rd. Brookfield, WI 53005
Thurs., Apr. 30th	Donna Krischan	9:00 a.m.	578 W22750 Terrace Dr. Big Bend, WI 53103
Fri., May 1st	Eble Park	9:00 a.m.	19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI
Sat., May 2nd	Eble Park	9:00 a.m.	19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI
Mon., May 4th	Eble Park	9:00 a.m.	19400 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI

Timesheets due September 15th by MGV Janet Wintersberger

We have a few more months before our timesheets are due but don't wait to start earning and recording those hours. Begin now so the timing doesn't interfere with your family's summer and fall plans.

Some master gardeners think the hour requirements to become or remain certified are minimal and they procrastinate. As September rolls around, some MGVs actually begin looking for ways to earn hours.

Perennial Plant Sale Timeline
Spring - Pot-A-Thons (dig, divide and plant perennials) See page 2
May 11th -13th - Set up at State Fair Park
May 15th - MGV-only preview sale
May 16th - Sale Day

Continuing Education hours

Take advantage of all the qualifying educational opportunities offered year-round. Talks, training, trips & tours and even WPR's Garden Talk with Larry Meiller program/podcasts *featuring UW staff* count. And, during the summer, Boerner Botanical Gardens offers guided evening garden walks.

Volunteer hours

If you can, greet MGVs at meetings or at in-house educational programs. You can give a presentation, or provide office support. In April and May, help with the Plant Sale by potting plant divisions, "staging" plants at the State Fair grounds, helping on sale day and/or "clean up" after the sale. Soon, MGVs will enjoy working in our many approved gardens.

These are just a few ideas. Watch ListServe announcements, check the MGV website <http://fyi.uwex.edu/SEWMG> or ask a seasoned master gardener for more ideas.

MGVs need 24 volunteer hours to become or remain certified and 10 hours of continuing education. Timesheets are due September 15th.



Calendar of Events for April and May

April 9th - Orientation for Boerner Botanical Garden Volunteers
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

April 17th - Wisconsin Hort Updates begin
Weekly - <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wihortupdate/>

April 22nd - Plant Health Advisor Training
at Boerner Botanical Garden
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

April 25th - Victory Garden Initiative
Morning - Mentor Training
Afternoon - Mentor/mentoree Meet & Greet
Monthly meetings May - September

April 30th - Capital Connections
Ride the bus to Madison

May 2nd - Composting Training at Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha
9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Morning - Composting at home
Afternoon - Certified Master Composter
May 6th - Plant Health Updates
2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at Milwaukee Cty extension

Alternating weeks through September.
May 27th - Lead Abatement in Garden Soil (English)

Workshop from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
May 30th - Lead Abatement in Garden Soil (Spanish)

Workshop from 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Watch the website <http://fyi.uwex.edu/volunteers/> and e-mails for Pot-A-Thon and Plant Sale activities



Garden Support Committee Update

by MGVs Patty Witt and Ken Loeffel, Garden Support Committee Co-Chairs

The Garden Support Committee (GSC) lends support to approved gardens through events and visits to the gardens. We always welcome MGVs to join us at our GSC meetings. Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 10th, 2015, right after the MGV Business Meeting (about 10:45 a.m.) at the Waukesha County Courthouse.

SEWMGV Garden Chair Forum (GCF)

On Thursday March 19, 2015, the GSC sponsored a very well attended GCF. As you know this event was for all Approved Garden/Project Chairs and/or their Representative. We had 65 interested MGVs attend this event. This is a record for the number of MGVs attending this annual event. Perhaps next year we will have *all Approved Gardens/Projects represented at this event*. This is only one of two annual events that Garden/Project Chairs or their representatives are required to attend.

We were able to inform the Approved Garden/Project Chairs about the duties and responsibilities of being a Garden/Project Chair. And the Garden/Project Chairs hopefully will inform the MGVs, who volunteer at their garden/project, about the information presented at the forum. The speakers gave very informative presentations on various topics. A list of the topics covered was included in the Garden Support Committee update article in the March/April 2015 newsletter.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this a very successful meeting including the speakers, Carol Dressler, the bakers of the delicious goodies, the greeters and all those who helped with set up and cleanup at the end.

2015 Public Garden Tours.

Susan Ratkowski and Liz Burke are planning visits to several approved gardens for Public Garden Tours in 2015. The four gardens to be visited are:

1. Historic Dousman Stagecoach Inn - Brookfield,
2. Eble Park Flower and Herb & Vegetable Gardens --Brookfield,
3. Pewaukee Public Library Rain Garden--Pewaukee and
4. NuGenesis Farm -- Oconomowoc.

The public tours will take place on Saturday, August 8, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will have more information regarding these tours and a description of the selected gardens in the next newsletter. So --Save the date and tell your friends about this event.

Mission Statement and Goals for Garden Support Committee

For the last several meetings the GSC has been refining a Mission Statement. We hope to finalize this in time for it to be included in the next Newsletter. The GSC has started to prepare a Goals Statement. More information on this in future newsletter articles.

Please contact Patty Witt at pattywitt8@gmail.com or Ken Loeffel at kloeffel@wi.rr.com with any ideas or comments for the GSC.



Save the Date!
2015 Garden Tours
Saturday, August 8th
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



News from the County Offices *by Sharon Morrisey, UWEX-Milwaukee Consumer Hort.*

Agent & Ann Wied, UWEX-Waukesha County Hort. Educator

Home Show Kudos

A great big thank you to our fantastic Home Show Booth committee of almost a dozen MGVs, for their creativity and construction of the beautiful, educational booth about container gardening. Everyone played a role and contributed something which when put together was even better than I think any of us imagined.

Our design team of Kandy Stamborski, Connie Reeves and Barbara Andrekopoulos made the display, brochure and PowerPoint presentation look spectacular. To see both the presentation and the brochure, go to the SEWMG website Training Materials page at the very bottom under Miscellaneous Materials <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/training/trainingmaterials>.

Special kudos also go to Nora Roberts who accepted the huge challenge of shopping to find the right digital photo frame and then stretching herself to learn how to take photos submitted by MGVs and set them up to run as a slide show in our booth. Of course, thanks to the 18 volunteers who submitted over 50 photos of their container compositions.

Thanks to the MGVs who made public presentations on the Solutions Stage. Lifelong gardening with containers was the topic for Valorie Sangsland, Anne Harvieux, and Peg Reisen the virtues of composting were extolled by Jim Remus. Their presentations and mine are the trade we make for our booth space.

A very special thanks to Faouzi Kablaoui for again this year scheduling all 68 volunteers and then, during the show, checking the supplies of brochures so we always had what was needed. Every shift of volunteers also did a great job of sharing the reliable UWEX information with casual and

serious gardeners alike. You probably even inspired a few to become MGVs themselves! Great work everyone.

Capital Connections

If you like to be part of the solution instead of the problem, join Milwaukee and Waukesha County UWEX for a bus trip to the Capital to visit your legislators. On April 30th, each county will have a full bus of Extension supporters, taking advantage of the opportunity to briefly

explain the value of UWEX to their elected officials or their staff and to ask for their support. Act TODAY to get on the bus. If you live in Waukesha County, call Ann Wied (262-548-7788). If you live in Milwaukee County, call Tammi Griffin (414-256-4641).

Thanks for Your Support

Milwaukee and Waukesha County UWEX both want to thank SEWMG for its continued financial support for the UWEX horticulture and urban ag programs involving MGVs. These annual donations make possible so many community and youth programs that there is no other funding for. It enables us to cover program costs such as copying and classroom materials, purchasing gardening and office supplies and equipment, paying fees for professional development programs, and adding to our reference libraries among other things. We value our partnership with SEWMGs and appreciate your support.

MKE Urban Ag Needs MGVs

Victory Gardens Initiative (VGI) Garden Mentors are being sought to meet with new owners of VGI raised beds to support their first attempts at vegetable gardening. Sign-up on their website (<http://victorygardeninitiative.org/gardenmentor>) and you will be paired with someone looking for a mentor. VGI tries to match the mentor and

mentoree's locations if possible. On Saturday, April 25th there will be mentor training in the morning and a meet and greet with mentorees in the afternoon. Then the mentor and mentoree will meet once a month from May through September.

MUG (Milwaukee Urban Gardens) community gardens would also like MGVs to mentor their garden leaders. MUG is part of Groundworks MKE and has 72 community gardens each with a volunteer leader to help coordinate the gardeners' activities. They would like to have a MGV mentor to answer questions. You can set-up whatever relationship you wish with the leaders answering by phone or e-mail or with regularly scheduled garden visits that fit your schedule. Contact Sharon Morrisey by phone or e-mail

Walkers Square Farmers Market community initiative is a project of the Milwaukee County UW-Extension Family Living Program educator. They are looking for MGVs to staff a booth at the Farmers Market on Thursdays and Saturdays between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Ideally, two volunteers in two shifts each day would distribute gardening literature and answer gardening questions. What makes this different is that MGVs would also learn to operate the EBT system so market clients could use their SNAP credits (formerly food stamps) to purchase fresh produce. Secondly, as part of a larger effort to make the market a community resource, MGVs would do hands-on demonstrations on any topic related to plants and gardening i.e. rooting herb cuttings, starting seeds, repotting houseplants, container gardening, flower arranging, vegetable gardening, worm composting, children's activities & crafts. For information or to volunteer, contact Sharon Morrisey.

(Continued on page 6)



News from the County Offices continued

Lead Abatement in Garden Soil

MGVs are also needed to help Sharon Morrisey in her role on a large grant about abatement of lead in garden soil. Other partners include the Medical College of Wisconsin, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, and Walnut Way Conservation Corp, and soils scientists from UW-Madison. Six workshops are being conducted in two neighborhoods in Milwaukee by people trained in reducing exposure to lead when gardening. The leaders expect between 20 and 30 people to attend. We want 3 MGVs at each of the workshops to answer general gardening questions. We would also like 2 or more MGVs to lead hands-on garden-related activities with children of the attendees. The first workshop is on Wednesday, May 27th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The second is on Saturday, May 30th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and will be conducted in Spanish so we are looking for Spanish-speaking MGVs. Please contact Sharon Morrisey for more information and to volunteer.

PHA the Best Way to Learn

Plant Health Advisor (PHA) MGV training for SEWMGs is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Boerner Botanical Gardens. The objective is to train MGVs to answer plant questions and diagnose plant problems for the public at many different venues. It is, hands down, the best way to learn more about plants. All MGVs are invited to this free workshop; however, those who register should be serious about volunteering to serve as a PHA in some capacity. We are in need of PHAs at the Milwaukee County UWEX Horticulture Help Line, at the UWEX Hort Center at Boerner

Botanical Gardens and to staff the Garden Cart in the gardens and at the Waukesha County UWEX Horticulture Help Line. PHAs also volunteer at area farmers' markets, at community gardens and workshops, the SEWMG Plant Sale and our booth at State Fair. Sharon Morrisey is conducting the training which counts for 4.5 hours of C.E. To register call or e-mail her at (414) 256-4660 or sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex .

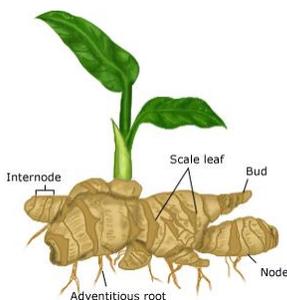
Plant Health Updates

PHU bimonthly sessions are conducted by Sharon Morrisey throughout the growing season to keep PHA MGVs up-to-date on the status of local pest problems and emerging and on-going plant health issues. Beginning Wednesday, May 6th and continuing every other week through the end of September, sessions are held from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee County UWEX office on Watertown Plank Road.

There is no charge and no registration is required. Everyone is welcome. Sessions count for 1.5 hours of C.E.

WHUs are Great C.E.

Wisconsin Hort Updates are weekly, statewide teleconferenced reports of plant pests and issues that are recorded and posted as audio files and transcripts for listening or reading when convenient. Each week also features an expert speaker on a topic of general interest. PowerPoint presentations by the experts can be downloaded to follow along during their audio presentations. PHAs especially are encouraged to listen but sessions are recommended for all MGVs for 1.5 hours of C.E. per session. Beginning April 17th, find them at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wihortupdate/> .



Volunteer at Boerner

MGVs wishing to volunteer their service to Boerner Botanical Gardens in one of the many roles there are invited to attend an orientation session there on Thursday, April 9th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Volunteer opportunities at Boerner are led by the Milwaukee County Parks department, the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens (FBBG) and the Milwaukee County UWEX. The County Parks and the Friends work together to coordinate the In-Garden Volunteers for weeding days and for helping the County horticulture staff in their assigned areas. The Friends train and schedule tour group docents and educational youth programs. UWEX activities include Plant Health Advisors in the Hort Center, Bloom Team, Garden Cart and Hort Center Displays. RSVP for the orientation to Jennifer Schmitz of the FBBG at 414-525-5664 or jschmitz@fbbg.org . To volunteer for UWEX activities, contact Sharon Morrisey.

Composting Training

Two levels of composting training are being offered by UWEX on Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha. For those who want to become certified Master Composters and share their expertise by volunteering to make and staff displays and give presentations, there is a \$30 fee which includes a Home Composting Study Guide and a manual. If you just want to improve your backyard composting, plan to attend just the morning session from 9:00 - 12:00 for \$20. Registration brochure is available from the Waukesha County UWEX at (262) 548-7770.



In-House Education Committee

by MGV Rita Piper, Committee Chair

Gardening with Ease--Join us at State Fair Park SEWMG Model Backyard Garden for a hands on session on May 14th at 10:30 a.m.

The Lifelong Gardening Committee will present **Techniques for Gardening with Ease**. You have all seen the tools at the volunteer fair and SEWMG Plant Sale, but now is your chance to actually use the tools to see what works best for you! Come join us on May 14th, 2015,

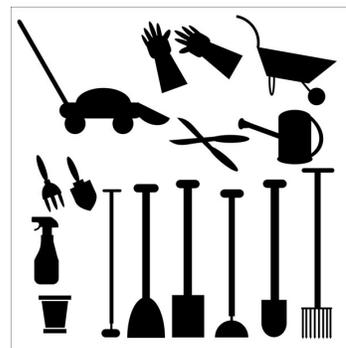


The purpose of the Lifelong Gardening Committee is to educate the public about tools and techniques which will allow them to garden throughout life, despite physical challenges or whether you are younger or young at heart.

The In-House Education Committee will resume our programs in September. Happy Gardening!



10:30 a.m. at the DNR area of State Fair to get hands-on experience with tools that will ease your time in the garden and information on enabling gardening. This is a hands-on experience, so don't expect to be sitting around listening! Be ready to touch & use the tools!



The Secret Gardens of Wauwatosa Tour

Courtesy of the Wauwatosa Beautification Committee

Tour six beautiful, private gardens plus the historic gardens at the Kneeland-Walker house on Saturday, July 11, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (rain or shine). Master Gardeners and plant societies will also be on hand, as well as vendors selling plants and garden items. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet and hear Melinda Myers.

Advance tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased beginning in early June at the following ticket outlets: Alfa Flower Shop, The Flower Lady, Rose's



Kneeland-Walker House

Flower Shop,

Stein Gardens and Gifts (Tosa location only), and Wisconsin Garden & Pet.

On tour day, tickets are \$12.00 and will be available at the Kneeland-Walker House (7406 Hillcrest Drive, Wauwatosa), the starting point for the tour.

For more information or to purchase tickets online, check the Wauwatosa Beautification Committee's website www.wbc-wi.org under "Garden Tour."

Trips and Tours *by MGV Doris Fons, Chair Trips & Tours Committee*

Our annual tour to Jerry Nelson's gardens will be on Wednesday, May 27th from 9 to 11 a.m. A Racine/Kenosha Master Gardener and owner of Classic Gardens, Jerry has opened his yard to us for many years to give us an educational program. This year our focus will be "The Edible Landscape" and we will view the progress of Jerry's grape vine project that he started three years ago. The tour of his yard reveals a collection of great trees and shrubs. This event counts towards your education hours.

There is a maximum number of 40 MGVs that are able to register for this tour. **Registration begins on Tuesday, May 5TH at 6:00 a.m.** There is a \$7 fee that will be collected that morning and will be donated to Jerry as a thank you so he can put it towards another special addition to his plant collection. As always, a letter will be sent if you are on the list of 40 participants with all the details and directions to Jerry's home.

And the fun part at the end of the morning is our little plant exchange.

Bring one or more special plants from your yard that you want to share with others who will also bring plants. Jerry also adds to our exchange. He may also have some spring annuals available for purchase. Coffee and treats will also be available, courtesy of Jerry.

This is always an enjoyable event and we are hoping for a sunny morning to enjoy the program and the tour. Hope to see you there.



Master Composter Training Workshop, May 2nd

by Ann Wied, UWEX-Waukesha County Hort. Educator

The UW-Extension Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) and Waukesha County UW-Extension along with Retzer Nature Center and Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use will be offering this workshop at Retzer Nature Center, to provide Master Composter Certification to individuals who want to share their knowledge of home composting with others.

The goal of the Master Composter program is to empower local composters to organize and teach

home composting workshops and offer compost demonstrations in their communities. The training will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is required and there is a \$30 fee for the program which includes the home study workbook and the workshop. Lunch is not included.

Those who are interested in learning about composting but are not interested in becoming a Master Composter can attend the morning session from 9 a.m. to Noon. The fee is \$20 for the half-day program.

Registration is required. Space is limited!

The registration brochure has been sent to the SEW listserve. It provided more details about the training as well registration information.

Need a registration form or have questions? Contact Ann at [262-548-7788](tel:262-548-7788) in the Waukesha County UW-Extension office or e-mail her at awied@waukeshacounty.gov



Have Information; Will Share *by MGV Ann Weronke*

Upon searching for activities for a friend who lives in an assisted living facility, I thought about the SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardener speaker's bureau. I wondered what needed to be done to get a group seeking information aligned with a SEWMG volunteer who can share that information. So I contacted Nancy Lehrer at the Volunteer office and made a visit to learn what our organization can provide for the community through speakers. Nancy coordinates all SEWMG speaking requests for both Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

A very compact office houses the prepared information available for presentations. Nancy showed what is stored in the office and how our speakers can be aided to provide these speeches. Above a desk with a computer, there are shelves containing many black binders with white-labeled titles. These binders cover varied topics including General Gardening, Garden/Landscape Design, Garden Flowers, Vegetables and Fruits, Landscape Plants, Lawns, Pests and Environmental Issues.

A sign-out book with its yellow-spined label heads the top shelf holding more than twenty titled binders alphabetically arranged with such names as "Basics for Garden Design" to "Your Yard, the Big Picture." That sign-out sheet binder is of utmost importance and records names of borrowers, the title of the topic, the sign-out date and a sign-in return date. *Volunteers must be certain to sign out the information if they use it.*



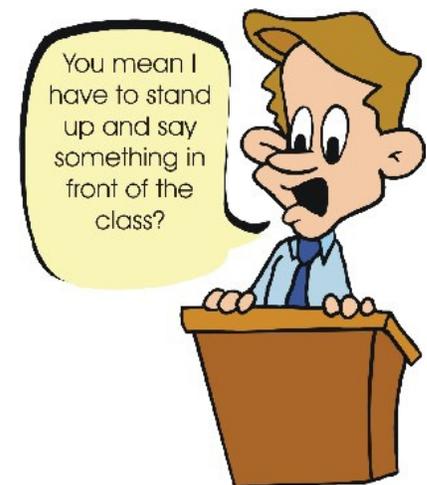
Inspection of one binder revealed that a DVD of the topic was slipped into the sleeve of the folder. Nancy indicated some MGVs take just the DVD; others take an entire folder that sometimes contains a follow-along script of the DVDs making it easy for the presenter to pace the lecture for questions from the group. Another binder entitled "Vegetables Contained" held the DVD, a colored set of pictures with information including container selection, soils available, and maintenance suggestions, and pictures of varied planted containers. These colored pictures replicate what the audience would see at the lecture.

Sharon Morrisey prepared all or most of the information contained in the binders with the occasional help of MGV Terry Fabian. The binders are found in the Master Gardeners volunteer office space at the Milwaukee extension office. Nancy is the guardian of these folders. She can reserve a topic for you by leaving her an e-mail message at nancy.lehrer@ces.uwex.edu. There is a list of the prepared presentations on the SEWMG website.

There is always a need for speakers on varied topics. A speaker does not have to use these prepared binders. If you have a specific gardening expertise or even a great love of a particular plant, you could volunteer as a speaker. All presentations should reflect UW Extension science-based information.

Organizations that want to learn about some aspect of gardening can contact Nancy Lehrer at the extension office. Nancy then announces the request via a ListServe e-mail. Our speakers do not charge a fee but gladly accept

honoraria for SEWMG. As true MGVs, speakers are willing and able to share the UWEX messages about horticulture. Next time a group is looking for a speaker, tell them about our extension-trained MGVs.



MGVs @ Work The Historic 'Dousman' Stagecoach Inn in Brookfield *by MGV Janet Wintersberger*

The Historic Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum is in a two-acre city of Brookfield Park, a few minutes away from Brookfield Square. When the three-story structure was built in 1843, it was the Dousman family's private home. The building is on the National Historic Registry and it was moved from Bluemound Road, restored and furnished to its days as a Stagecoach Inn (1857-1872).

The gardens are representative of the late 1800s. As you enter the grounds, you will pass a quarter acre prairie similar to those that early pioneers would have traveled through -- on foot, horseback or in a stagecoach. A kitchen/herb garden is just outside the Inn's back door, readily available for the innkeeper's wife to gather herbs

and vegetables for the meals she prepared. Nearby are raspberry bushes from which she made jam.

Many outbuildings are in the park, including a smokehouse, outhouse, gate house (for collecting tolls) and replicas of a blacksmith shop and an ice house. A cottage garden borders the 1853 log cabin that serves as the visitor's center. Sun loving and drought tolerant perennials provide color all season. A butterfly garden can be viewed from the porch. A lilac provides shelter for butterflies and birds.

A raised bed filled with mostly Wisconsin natives is next to the ice house. The plants provide year-round interest and the raised bed serves as a learning tool. A garden to attract monarch butterflies was added last

fall. Because the young plants quickly attracted deer, fencing will be added this year.

Many people visit the park, some just to enjoy its solitude and beauty. There are museum goers, historic event guests, geo-catchers, artists, professional and amateur photographers, history buffs, out-of-staters, wedding parties, school and scout groups, walkers and bikers. Guided tours of the Inn are given the first and third Sundays of the month, from 1-4 p.m.

Gardening will begin on Mondays in late April. Contact Janet Wintersberger at jwintersberger@wi.rr.com if you would like to help.



MGVs @ Work Sharon Lynn Wilson Senter for the Arts

by MGV Dottie Feder

The Sharon Lynn Wilson Center for the Arts is a gem tucked in the natural setting of Mitchell Park in Brookfield. The Arts Center is a popular venue for both local and international performers; it is vibrant with dance, music and art education for children and adults throughout the year.

Master Gardeners initially established a Native Garden at the Wilson Center in 2009. Since then, they have developed other gardens -- a Butterfly Garden, Daylily Garden, Cottage Garden and Iris Garden. The Iris Garden is maintained by the Iris Society of WI.



The gardens have received many compliments and are often photographed during special events such as weddings. Wildlife also enjoy the gardens with deer nibbling on favorite plants and killdeer nesting each spring in the Butterfly Garden.

Master Gardener volunteers have had many opportunities to enjoy the setting with picnics, free Starry Nights concerts, Ploch Gallery exhibits, and the Hidden River Art Festival. The Art Center has become a very special place to the volunteers and will soon see many changes through an



“ArtPark” initiative. The gardens will be reconfigured and more art will be added throughout the grounds. A new staging area will be constructed near the woods with development extending to the river.

Many creative opportunities exist for Master Gardener volunteers such as being available as a plant health advisor during scheduled events or sharing the gardens with children during outdoor art classes. Garden work days are scheduled for Tuesday mornings; however, a spring orientation date will be announced on the ListServe with further details. For more information, please e-mail dottiebrkf@sbcglobal.net



MGVs @ Work Havenwoods State Forest

by MGV Barb Mackowey

The Naturalist's Backyard is located in Havenwoods State Forest which is in the city of Milwaukee at 6141 North Hopkins St. The Naturalist's Backyard received its current name in 2007, but there has been a Master Gardener presence here since the earliest days of Havenwoods (1980s) when a berm was planted with flowers for the enjoyment of park visitors. *If anyone remembers how that got started, we'd love to hear from you!*

To provide an educational focus for the garden, the Naturalist's Backyard shows visitors Extension-based practices they can use in their urban backyards. We use native plants to enhance wildlife habitat and reduce maintenance and



demonstrate non-chemical methods of weed control. Invasive species, shade, surface tree roots, mulch, composting garden debris and multi-season interest are some of the topics we share with visitors including hikers and cyclists using the park's trails, people attending programs at the Environmental Awareness Center, and families working the rental gardens adjacent to our garden. The Backyard is open to the public anytime that the Havenwoods grounds are open.

Our plantings include annuals, perennials, shrubs and grasses. We have a few planter boxes that usually are planted for a sensory experience or an edible flowers feature. Even though we have been here for a number of years, there are still sections of our garden that we would

like to renovate. Anyone interested in a *long-term* commitment to help with this is encouraged to check us out. If you are more interested in something *short-term*, there is weeding, planting, watering and mulching, removing invasives, or researching to find appropriate additions to our garden.

Except for spring and fall clean-up days, we usually ask volunteers to sign up for a scheduled workday. Because of the size and nature of the Backyard, our plans for a workday are determined by the number of hands that will be available. If you want to help but can't make a scheduled workday, let us know when you are available. We can usually arrange something with you. Contact Barb Mackowey at 414-466-7681 or bamackowey@aol.com for more information. To learn about activities and DNR programs at Havenwoods, visit <http://www.friendsofhavenwoods.org>.



MGVs @ Work Oconomowoc Art Center

by MGV Chuck Congo

The Oconomowoc Art Center (OAC) is part of the Oconomowoc Area School District. It opened in 2008 and we began gardening in 2010. It is located on the high school campus and is used for school events (all levels, not just high school) and community events including music, dance, drama, film and educational programs. It also functions as a classroom; there are classes offered in the school curriculum and during the summer. As an example, First Stage of Milwaukee has summer courses at the OAC.

The high school has horticultural classes

and MGVs work with large groups of students several times a year. Michael Duncan, the OAC director and an enthusiastic gardener, is very helpful and supportive. The Art Center uses volunteers in a number of areas; some are also gardeners and work with us.

We have a mix of perennials, shrubs and trees, with only a few annuals in four large pots. The last major work was done three years ago and the plantings are now maturing. The gardens incorporate some major art works, including an 8' bronze sculpture "Melody" donated by the

Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts. The Tri-Club Plaza was a project of the local Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions Clubs. Two challenging areas include the plaza's west exposure and its heat and the north side of the building with its overhang that limits the light and rain.

View the Art Center schedule and box office on the web site (www.theoac.org) and consider attending an event there. Or visit us any time as the Art Center grounds are open to the public. There is also an open house in August to showcase the year's schedule.





South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners

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Grow with us

Check out our website

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

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Our Mission Statement

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