



Good Earth News

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Leave it for the Birds by Sharon Morrissey Consumer Hort. Agent,
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We hear it all the time. When doing fall clean-up in the yard and garden, don't clear away all of the herbaceous perennials because some actually provide seeds for birds which helps them get through the winter. But which plants should we leave and which can we remove because they just look ugly all winter long and serve no purpose?

I began to ponder this question when I was preparing for a tree walk scheduled in September at the Lynden Sculpture Gardens to recognize River Hills for attaining Bird City status this year. Using our Extension publication "Landscape Plants That Attract Birds" (G1609 from <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/>), I confirmed the roles of many of our common trees and shrubs in providing food, shelter and nesting sites. In the publication, one chart indicates which plants attract what birds while another chart rates the quantity and quality of the food the plants supply.

The thought struck me how helpful it would be to have such charts for herbaceous perennials. I realized that, while it was common knowledge that hummingbirds seek nectar at tubular flowers in spring and summer (phlox, columbine, bleeding heart, and morning glories) and finches appreciate coneflower seedheads, I had never seen a list of perennials and the birds they attract. Finding such lists was harder than I thought. The little I gleaned is provided below:

Garden Annuals

- Cosmos
- Impatiens
- Petunias
- Sunflowers
- Zinnias

Garden Perennials (native and exotic)

- Asters*
- Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia spp.)*
- Blazing stars (Liatris spp.)*
- Coneflowers, purple & grey (Echinacea spp.)*

- Coreopsis*
- Daisy
- Daylily (Hemerocallis sp.)
- Evening primrose
- Goldenrods (Solidago spp.)*
- Hostas
- Ironweed (Veronica spp.)*
- Joe-pye weeds (Eupatorium spp.)*
- Sedum spp.
- Silphiums (cup-plant, prairie dock, compass plant, rosin weed)*

Grasses

- Bluestems*
- Panicum spp.
- Most other grasses that produce seeds

"Wild" Plants

- Canada goldenrod
- Chicory
- Queen Anne's Lace
- Sunflowers (Helianthus spp.)*
- Wild strawberry*

*Source: "WI Best Native Plants for Attracting Birds" from www.wildones.org/land/wibirdpl.html also lists specific birds attracted to these plants.

How thoroughly your garden gets cleaned up for the fall is a personal decision. Some want everything tidy and clean for the winter. These gardeners pull out every last annual and cut back all of the perennials. Others go to the opposite extreme and leave everything in place just in case it can serve some purpose for some life form or other by making its winter a little more survivable. The middle ground is probably to leave standing only those plants that are known as winter food sources for birds plus those that have some winter beauty however subtle. Still other gardeners are guided strictly by their sense of aesthetics and yank anything they can't stand to look at all winter. They know with certainty that wildlife is provided for aplenty by all the shamelessly unkempt yards elsewhere in the neighborhood.



News from the County Office by Sharon Morrissey Consumer Hort. Agent, MCCE

Ann Gets Hip

In early October, Ann Wied had surgery to replace her hip which had been causing her great pain for many months. She will be at home recovering for 6 – 8 weeks. Cards can be sent to her at 16560 Willow Ridge, Brookfield, WI 53005.

Entrance Planters Primped

You can't help but notice how beautiful the planters on either side of the entrance to the Milwaukee County office of UW-Extension look. That's because MGV Barbara Kiernan has taken charge of them as part of her volunteer service. This August she started by just giving them a good primping. In September she planted a few fall beauties to add some color. Next summer there will be a real makeover. It makes a difference every day for our staff and visitors alike. Thanks, Barb.

Educational Focus Sought

Ideas are welcome for the topic for our educational focus for 2013. A major display, publication and PowerPoint presentation will be created on this subject to use during 2013 and for years to come. Therefore, this should be a topic that we feel will be of real interest to our large audiences including visitors to the Realtors Home & Garden Show in March, the County Fairs in Waukesha and Milwaukee and other large public events. Previous years' topics have been lawn care, homegrown tomatoes, and small space vegetable

gardening. Submit your suggestions to Sharon Morrissey via e-mail or voicemail or in person.

Volunteer Celebration 2013

Planning has just begun for an event to recognize the contributions of SEWMG volunteers during 2012. We are anticipating a smaller event because it will not include graduation ceremonies. Since there was no General Training class in the spring of 2012, there will be no new MGVs graduating until early 2014. Recognition of service by certified MGVs during 2012 is important and worth celebrating, too, so watch for announcement of the date for this very special event.

Specialty Training Now Level 2

The new training schedule for the SEWMGs that moved Level 1 Training (formerly General Training) to the fall also moves what we have formerly called Fall Specialty Training to the spring. There will actually be two options for SEWMGs since the state MGV program will be offering an on-line course on fruits, vegetables and community gardening. Sessions will be available on-line for enrollees to complete by October of 2013.

The Milwaukee and Waukesha County UW-Extension MGV program will also offer a Level 2 Training on a subject yet to be determined. We anticipate that the training will be held for 4 sessions in late February and March or early April. Topics are still being discussed and your ideas are welcome.



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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.



Linden Grove Thank You by MGV Therese Ziegler chair

Linden Grove Health Care Center in New Berlin has been a garden project for the past five years. I hope this relationship continues for many more years. As the garden chair and activity therapist at Linden Grove, I want to share with you just what the UWEX SEWMG volunteers provide to our long term care residents and rehab guests.

Our facility is a member of the Eden Association which means we are person-centered and do our best to provide for the well-being of our "family." The garden that is maintained by the MGVs is not just a place to look pretty. It does not just provide an educational focus on gardening. It provides our "family," guests and community the means to experience connectivity with nature, purposeful activity and joy with our accomplishments.

As I gathered the seeds for the residents to sort and package, I reflected on the cycle we have developed over the years. The Master Gardeners come in early spring, work side-by-side with residents, plant the

seeds, then separate the seedlings and this is before the snow has melted. Then the MGVs are observed putting our fragile plants into the soil at ground level, while David, Franko and Judy, who reside at Linden Grove, are busy planting the pots and raised beds. Throughout the summer I hear from residents, "Your helpers were weeding." The residents have taken charge of the watering. Early in the morning, Raymond can be seen watering the planters and filling the fountain. Throughout the day, families, staff and guests walk the path that takes them past the lavender, by the fountain and around the raised bed. For a moment, they are remembering grandma's garden or laughing at the birds fluttering in the fountain's shower, or jotting down the name of a flower. The simple pleasures of nature bringing us together have been made possible because of volunteers who give their gift of time, something I cannot place a value on and can only repay them with a thank you. So, as we prepare the garden for its winter rest, I want to say Thank You to the UWEX SEWMG volunteers. God bless!



**I want to say
Thank You to the
UWEX SEWMG
volunteers**

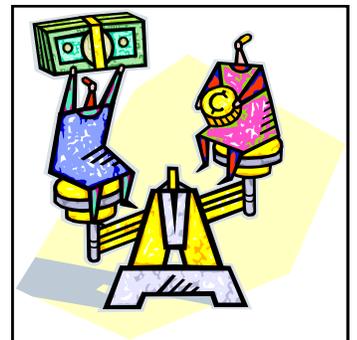
SEWMG Budget Meeting by MGV Sandy Manning Finance Committee Chair

The Finance Committee has received all the budget requests, crunched all the numbers, compared expenses to income and come up with a proposed budget for 2013. This budget process helps all the committee chairs review the upcoming year to plan projects and think ahead to warmer days.

The committee reviewed each request with an eye to what was spent in the past and what new projects are proposed for the new year. As we get closer spending down the overage we had accumulated, we get closer to being required to live within the constraints of the last year's plant sale income for our projects. With that in mind, we asked many of the projects to be creative, use plants from the plant sale for perennials in the gardens, join forces with other gardens and share the wealth, and finally to ask the partner organizations for support for the gardens or projects

they partner. This inspection and review process makes all of us better managers of the funds we work so hard to earn at the plant sale and in many ways makes us all more creative in stretching those funds to meet all the demands we ask of them. The final steps in this process is a presentation of the proposed budget to the Board of Directors on November 7th, with a presentation to the membership on November 10th at 9:30 a.m. and a vote at the Annual Meeting to accept the budget as it was approved by the board.

I want to thank the entire committee for its thoughtful work in the past two months as we gathered data and asked questions of committee chairs. It has been wonderfully collaborative group, with everyone willing to share ideas and insights.



This is a reminder that your 2013 membership dues are required soon. As of the date of this note, 288 members have paid their dues – THANK YOU. That leaves at least 300 who have not. I know the weather is beautiful for working in the yard, but please take a few minutes, write your check, fill out the attached dues application and mail it to the address listed.

Patty Witt
Membership Chair

**SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, Inc.
Annual Dues Application
2013 DUES**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: [home] _____

Telephone: [cell] _____

e-mail address: _____

New Membership _____ Renewed Membership _____

Please share with us your skills, special talents, or areas of interest:

- Graphics/Displays
- Computer Skills
- Project Management
- Event Planning
- Finance/Accounting
- Teaching/Education
- Administrative Support
- Writing/editing

Other: _____

SEWMG DUES: \$10.00 PER YEAR

(Includes membership dues for WIMGA)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SEWMG

PLEASE MAIL TO: SEWMG

P.O. Box 26453

Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0453

Dues are payable by November 1, 2012



President's Corner by MGV President Dan Cummings

As we move into the months of October and November, we notice a change in the weather and realize our hot dry summer is over. Our garden activities can now turn to cleaning and putting our beds to rest. It has been a stressful summer for many of our plants and trees with all the hot temperatures and lack of rain water. We can only hope that our plants will survive for next year. We are gardeners and we accept those things that Mother Nature gives us. We may not always like them but we always take the good years with the not-so-good years and continue gardening -- we are after all, the eternal optimists!

This is also a time of year when plans are being made for the concluding activities for SEWMG. The Garden Support Committee is busy working out plans for the 2013 Volunteer Fair to help introduce all the new members to our over 40 volunteer gardens. With the new graduating class this year, our numbers will be over the 600 mark and this means that we have doubled our membership in the last six years! The date for the Volunteer Fair is scheduled for January 19th, 2013, and additional information will be on our web site. Many of our new members will find that our organization offers many opportunities and ways to participate, either at one of the Fairs/Home Show, at a Pot-A-Thon or as a member of one of the SEWMG committees. We welcome the new members as well as all the seasoned members to become involved in our organization and participate in all the yearly activities. You will find that these activities are great ways of meeting new people and forming new friendships.

The last official SEWMG Business Meeting will be at the annual Holiday Party that is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5th at Meyers Family Restaurant. I will be turning the gavel over to our new SEWMG President, Kris Jensen. I look forward to seeing many of you at this gathering to enjoy the holiday festivities and welcome Kris as our new President for 2013.

This, then, is my last newsletter article as your President and I would like to thank all those members who helped out in so many ways this year. Your help has made my job much easier. All of your involvement helps keep this group exciting, interesting and a worthwhile organization in which to participate. It has been an honor to serve you and I look forward to meeting and working with you next year. See you at a Pot-A-Thon!

The last official SEWMG Business Meeting will be at the annual Holiday Party that is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5th at Meyers Family Restaurant.

Volunteer & Education Report by Nancy Lehrer MG Volunteer Coordinator, MCCE

Hello MGVs,

Are you...

Considering volunteering as a speaker?

Not sure how to get started?

Please come to the MGV workroom (room 211) and take a look at the presentation binders on the computer desk. There are 11 completed presentations and 18 more that will be finished soon. They were written by Sharon Morrissey and beautifully put together by Terry Fabian.

Each binder has a DVD of the presentation and a printed version of all the power point pages. If you would like to review a presentation binder, **please sign it out** in the binder with the orange spine.

List of presentations available:

Basics of Garden Design
 Choosing Trees for Color
 Composting Short Course
 Cuttings and Propagation
 Divide & Conquer: Making the Most of Your Perennials
 Flowers With Flair
 Gardening Greener
 Gardening Alternatives

Small Space, Small Budget Vegetable Gardening
 Trouble-free Tomatoes
 Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers

MG opportunities:

The season has slowed down but please put the MGV Holiday Party on your calendar now- December 5th
 Meyers Family Restaurant
 4260 S 76th St Greenfield, WI 53220

Remember:

We realize some MGVs do not have easy access to a computer and the internet. We have a binder in the MG workroom (on top of the brown file cabinet) that contains all the e-mails that have been sent by our SEWMG volunteers.

Our gardens are cleaned up and we can take a breath; enjoy a few moments of quiet before the holiday season begins.

Thank you,

Nancy 414 256-4661



Attracting Migrating Birds to your Backyard

by Diane Visty Raptor Manager at Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

The Schlitz Audubon Nature Center has received a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to help migrating birds along the Great Lakes. An important part of the grant is to reach out to land owners big and small to encourage native plantings on their property. Wisconsin is situated in the middle of one of the main migration corridors for birds in our country. More than 300 species of birds come through in the spring and again in the fall traveling between nesting sites in the north and overwintering locations in Central and South America.

We are asking the Master Gardeners of Wisconsin to help our bird friends by getting the word out. Native plants are very important for migrating birds. These birds provide aesthetic and economic values to people through their very existence. They also play an important role in maintaining the ecosystems on which we depend and maintain our quality of life. For example, some birds pollinate flowering plants, while others act as pest control of insects or rodents. Birds can disperse seeds, but some species also help with weed control by eating the seeds of invasive plants.

There are five groups of migratory birds: Land birds like songbirds, hummingbirds and other perching birds; Raptors like our friends the hawks, eagles and owls; Waterfowl; and Shorebirds.

These birds need food-rich stopover sites with adequate shelter. These sites provide good resting and refueling stops for migrating birds which will improve their chances for a successful migration. That means Wisconsin will have more birds controlling insect populations, better bird watching opportunities to help our economy, and more protected habitats for birds and other wildlife.

As humans encroach on natural landscapes, our front and backyards become important surrogate habitats for migrating birds, as do sites like college campuses and city parks. The fruits from the plants provide more calories for the birds during migration, and the trees and leaves offer great nesting materials for a brief stop-over and protection from predators.

Songbirds are the primary berry eaters during migration. The berries that a bird eats offer a great food source to help them load up for a big flight. Did you know the same antioxidant vitamins and minerals

that help humans fight stress and sickness helps birds cope with the stress of migration? Plants bait birds with their fruits, because berries such as elderberries and hackberries want nothing more than to have migratory birds consume their seeds – but not digest them. The bird benefits from the fleshy fruit meal but passes the seed so it can germinate and grow – making more plants for future generations of migrating birds.

During nesting in spring and summer, many birds hunt for invertebrate prey for protein and easy digestibility as they nest and feed their young. But at the end of summer and into fall, the birds seek out fruit for its high carbohydrate content that they can pick and eat on the go.

Did you know that even one plant can help a bird along its migration? That's something you can do right in your own backyard! To help the birds, you want to provide fruiting shrubs, vines, and trees in your yard.

Choose native plants to help save money. Care costs go down since you need less fertilizer to help the plants thrive. These species are naturally more resistant to regional diseases and pests, making them less likely to be affected by these problems. And because the plants adapt to your region's weather extremes, they are less likely to be lost to a heavy winter frost or summer heat wave, saving you money on replacing damaged plants. The benefit is that your garden looks great without a lot of work and in turn helps the migration.

Timing plays a key role, too. You want plants to provide food through as many months as possible. If all of the plants climax at the same time, you might miss birds that visit at other times. Also consider the vegetative complexity of your sanctuary. The more layers of vegetation in your yard, the more food sources you can offer. For example, you can plant large trees, vines that grow on the trees' trunks, short and tall shrubs, and grasses and flowers low to the ground. Multiple heights lead to more opportunities.

I invite you to get your shovels ready to plant! And your binoculars ready to enjoy the feathered jewels for whom you are providing safe harbor.



Here are a few native berries for the songbirds:

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*), Chokecherry (*Prunus Virginiana*), Dogwoods (*Cornus*), Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*), Cockspur Hawthorn (*C. crus-galli*), Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*), Nannyberry (*V. lentago*), Arrowwood (*V. dentatum*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), Oaks (*Quercus*), American Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*), and Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)



Super Heroes Who Share by Lorrie Clarey MGV

In March 2012, the graduating class of Master Gardener Volunteers celebrated with a Super Hero theme. As a newbie and not very artistic, I was hard pressed to decorate my hero mask. It looked a bit more like Mardi Gras than Hero Volunteer. To be honest, I wasn't convinced that a gardener could be a hero in any true sense of the word. However, this summer has been an eye opening and humbling experience for me.

Twenty-three counties in southern Wisconsin were declared natural disaster areas because of the extreme drought conditions this summer. Backyard gardens struggled and many failed as vegetables bolted or were devoured by wildlife. deer, woodchucks, rabbits, birds and other critter friends were all thirsty and hungry this past summer. Crops that made it through the heat and drought and critters sprang to life and danced when rain finally arrived on July 26th. Then, on September 17th, hail pelted the ripening fruits of gardeners' labors, decreasing produce yields even more. Just two and a half weeks later, we received a frosty foreshadowing that winter was on its way.

Paraphrased from Wikipeida, heroes and heroines are defined as those who, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position of weakness, display courage and the will for self-sacrifice for some greater good for all of humanity. Under synonyms, Wikipedia could have listed "SEWMGV."

Several of SEWMG approved gardens provide fresh produce to local food pantries. This year these MGV accomplishments are especially astonishing given the obstacles with which they have had to contend and knowing that so many

people were dependent upon them. While I intended to provide this year's harvest totals in this issue, I am very pleased to hear that all of the gardens and their Master Gardener Volunteers are still in harvest mode at the time of creating this issue.

These gardens include Milwaukee County's **Harvest for the Hungry at Firefly Ridge Garden** (Wauwatosa), **Green Thumb Garden at Fox 6** (Milwaukee), and **Havenwoods State Forest, Heritage Garden** (Milwaukee). In Waukesha County, the community gardens which donate to local food pantries include **Eble Park** (Brookfield); **Green Power Garden** (Waukesha), **Nu-Genesis** (Town of Delafield soon to be moving to Stone Bank) and **Sussex Outreach Services, S.O.S.** (Sussex).

Green Power Garden was able to provide some preliminary facts for this article. Under the guidance of seven MGVs, more than 500 community volunteers are growing over 30 varieties of vegetables, fruits and herbs. As of September 26th, more than 4,000 pounds of produce has been harvested at the Green Power Garden. Can you believe that? And more is yet to come!

As Dan Cummings noted in his column, gardening this year has been a challenge. But our efforts are doubly rewarding. As SEWMGVS share produce with those in need, our organization has had the honor of learning a bit about some of the Master Gardener Volunteer Community Gardens and the nothing-short-of-heroic efforts of these MGV veggie volunteers. No matter how fancy one's hero mask is or is not, we all are needed and appreciated for our contribution.



Jean Hoffman at Whitefish Bay Farmers Market sharing information.

As Dan Cummings noted in his column, gardening this year has been a challenge. But our efforts are doubly rewarding.





*Come celebrate the Season
Master Gardener Volunteer Holiday Party
and Annual Meeting*

Wednesday, December 5, 2012
Meyers Family Restaurant
4260 South 76 Street
Located in the Triangle of
Forest Home Ave, Coldspring Road and 76th Street in
Greenfield, Wisconsin

6:00 pm Cash Bar
7:00 pm Dinner

Limited to the first 200 people to register

No Charge for MGVs

You may bring 1 guest for \$10.

Make check for your guest payable to: SEWMG

Your Holiday Party Reservation will be accepted only
if your 2012 Volunteer Hours have been submitted and your 2013 dues have been paid.



Holiday Party Reservation
RSVP by November 26, 2012
Mail to

Patty Witt
16508 W. Melody Ct
New Berlin, WI 53151-9243

- Yes My 2012 Volunteer Hours have been submitted.
- Yes My 2013 SEWMG Dues have been paid.
- Dues are Included.

Make **SEPARATE** \$10.00 check Payable to SEWMG for dues.

Yes, I will be attending _____

Print for Name Tag

Please include my guest _____

Print for Name Tag

Menu:

Served Family Style All You Care to Eat Served at your table without having to go through a buffet line.

Fresh Garden Salad Bakery Fresh Bread

Pressure Fried Chicken Swiss Steak

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Sage Dressing Chef's Vegetable of the Day

Cranberry Sauce Chefs Special Dessert

Coffee, Tea or Milk



Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension Office
9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd. Building A
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Phone: 414-256-4600

Fax: 414-256-4646

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

[HTTP://FYI.UWEX.EDU/SEWMG/](http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/)



Mailed with this issue:

- November/December Events

Winter

For more information:

Calendar Hotline (MGV Hotline)

414-256-4666

On the Web

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

Sharon Morrisey (Consumer Hort. Agent, Milwaukee)

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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

Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension Office

9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd. Building A, Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Waukesha County Cooperative Extension 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.