While I have a few more months to serve as president, this will be my last president’s article for the Good Earth News. Therefore, I must take this opportunity to thank the many people who have assisted me during my term in office. Working with my co-officers; Pat Adrian, president elect, Linda Ziebell, secretary, and Lindy Pawlak, treasurer, has truly been a pleasure. Best wishes to Pat and Lindy as they continue to serve in 2015, and grateful appreciation to Linda as she completes her three years in office.

Board members, committee chairs and project chairs; your ideas and hard work have been invaluable. Thank you to Sharon Morrisey, Ann Wied, Nancy Lehrer, Kathy Bosetti Reese and the other UW Extension staff for your guidance and support. Lastly, thank you to all the MGVs who contributed so much time and effort to keep our approved gardens and projects such rewarding community entities. You help make our world a little more beautiful and special for everyone! It has been my honor to serve and work with all of you.

As we begin the process of putting our gardens to bed for the winter, the board and officers have already begun the process of planning for next year. Annual reports and budget requests are being analyzed and reviewed in preparation for the 2015 budget for approved gardens and projects. Plans for our 20th annual plant sale fundraiser have already begun. The dig team has dug at several donor gardens and heeled in hundreds of perennial plants at Eble for the winter (to be potted for the sale in the spring). The plant sale committee is planning some exciting things to mark the significant benchmark of our 20th anniversary of the sale. If you have any clever ideas, please, pass them on to me!

While “hands in the dirt” garden work will soon be on hiatus, our SEWMGV calendar remains full with a variety of in-house educational programs, committee work and planning meetings. Just as our plants are quietly working on their less showy, but oh so valuable, root systems through the fall and winter months, so are your officers and committees working on our less showy behind the scenes business and planning efforts. Our work now ensures that the spring and summer results will be glorious and rewarding. Be sure to check the website event’s calendar on a regular basis, so that you don’t miss out on opportunities.

One of our most delightful winter gatherings is our annual meeting and holiday celebration in December. Put on your best finery, enjoy terrific company of your friends, feast on dinner and drinks, and, maybe, take home a door prize. New officers will be elected and installed during the meeting portion of the evening. This is when I will pass the president’s gavel to Pat Adrian for her to begin her term. Look for party details and reservation information on our website and in this edition. Respond quickly, as seating is limited. Spouses and guests are welcome. (Invitation is on page 2.)

Finally, my hope is that you can take advantage of our wonderful Wisconsin fall to soak in some of the sunny, crisp, cool air, to see the glorious fall colors, and to enjoy the last of your garden blooms.

May all of your upcoming seasonal celebrations be filled with joy, warmth, and laughter.
Holiday Party & Annual Meeting

Come celebrate the Season
Master Gardener Volunteer Holiday Party
& Annual Meeting

Wednesday, December 10th, 2014
Alioto’s Restaurant
3041 North Mayfair Road
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. Dinner
Annual Meeting to Follow

MGVs $10
You may bring one guest for $10.

Make check payable to:
SEWMG

Your Holiday Party Reservation will be accepted only if your 2014 volunteer hours have been submitted and your 2015 dues have been paid.

Please Note: MGVs in Training will not be eligible to attend the Holiday Party until completion of their first year of service. The Holiday Party is our way to show appreciation for member’s volunteer service. We look forward to having you join us next year.

Holiday Party Reservation
RSVP by December 1st, 2014

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

_____ Yes My 2014 Volunteer Hours have been submitted.
_____ Yes My 2015 SEWMG Dues have been paid.
_____ I’m paying my 2015 dues today. Make separate $10.00 check payable to SEWMG.

Yes, I will be attending ____________________________________________________
Print for Name Tag

Please include my guest ____________________________________________________
Print for Name Tag

Menu:

Self  Guest
_____   _____  6 ounce Beef Tenderloin Filet, Button Mushrooms
_____   _____  Baked Cod, Tartar Sauce and Lemon Wedge
_____   _____  Vegetarian Option

All Dinners include:
Salad, Choice of Dressing, Buttered New Potatoes. Italian Bread, Coffee, Tea or Milk Dessert: Sherbet
Looking Forward Toward the Plant Sale

by MGV Ann Weronke

A small group of MGVs has begun collecting perennials for next year’s plant sale. These master gardeners are digging, dividing and “heeling in” the plants over the winter. In April, these perennials become the focus of our Pot-A-Thons. (A bevy of MGVs get together to plant the perennials for the sale.) It’s a huge, fun and do-able task. The ultimate goal is to have 12,000 - 15,000 healthy, quality plants to sell in May.

We Missed You! by MGV Janet Wintersberger

Once a year, Master Gardener Volunteers and their spouses get together for a picnic. It is always held in August. The officers spring for hot entrées and beverages (some spirited). MGVs bring a favorite dish to share - ranging from appetizers to salads to desserts and to even more beverages. The fun festivities include great food, music and games.

The Mitchell Park Pavilion in Brookfield offers a great food prep area, indoor and outdoor seating, restrooms and shelter from a storm (in case of inclement weather). While Brookfield may seem a long way from Milwaukee, our Master Gardeners live anywhere between Lake Michigan and Eagle Springs Lake - so it is truly central to everyone. And the MGV picnic gives us all a chance to escape our garden chores and visit with others.

Don’t miss the picnic next year - August 20th, 2015 - at Mitchell Park in Brookfield.
In-House Education Committee
by MGV Rita Piper, Committee Chair

About 70 Master Gardeners attended the September program with Christopher Schultz speaking about Green Roofs. Chris showed examples of green roofs from parking lots to multilevel businesses to small garden sheds.

Registration for our October program, Taking Herbs to the Next Level with Marcia Carmichael, was filled past capacity within a few days. There are not many venues in the Milwaukee/Waukesha County region with meeting space for over 150; therefore, we realize that most of our programs will have waiting lists.

As a reminder, if you need to cancel your registration, please contact Judy Williamson at 262-691-9391.

When we have 30+ people on the waiting list, but then have open seats in the room, due to no shows who neglected to cancel their registration, it is unfair to those on the waiting list.

The In-house Education Committee recruited several new members for the 2015 year. We are happy to have Nancy Dubyk, Judith Honeck, Nancy Randall and Kathy Rincon join Judy Williamson, Joy Towell, Mary Mindham and myself on the planning team. In October, we started planning the 6 programs for 2015, which will be outlined in the January newsletter. An e-mail with the registration links will be sent three to four weeks prior to each program. As always, if you see or hear about an excellent speaker, who would be appropriate for the Master Gardeners, please contact one of us on the committee.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM
Innovations for a Healthy Food System
Alex Tyink, Goodwill Grows Program Leader
November 15th, 2014, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Boerner Botanical Gardens

Alex Tyink began his work in Brooklyn, NY by building community gardens and farms for social service providers throughout New York City. Now known as the Head of Lettuce, the Goodwill Grows program has grown to include 8 community gardens, 2 community farms, a food business incubation program, a farm to school program and numerous partnerships with organizations participating in indoor farming programs.

In his presentation, “Innovations for a Healthy Food System,” Alex will address how Goodwill Grows develops socially innovative models to build community and create a positive food culture. Participants walk away with new ideas for developing local food systems and engaging community in the emotional experience of eating food grown with your own hands. Goodwill Grows is a program of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin, Inc.

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. We will have our next meeting on November 12th right after the MGV Business Meeting. This will be held at Boerner Botanical Garden Education Building.

Volunteer Opportunity Fair. The date for the fair is Saturday January 17th, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. This will be held at the Boerner Botanical Garden Education Building. Each Approved Garden and each Approved Project is able to have a display explaining to new and seasoned MGVs the various opportunities available to earn your volunteer hours.

Starting at 11:00 a.m. the In-House Education Committee is planning to hold an education presentation. This will last about one hour and 15 minutes. You must pre-register for this educational opportunity. More details to follow in the Jan/Feb 2015 newsletter and future ListServe e-mails.

Garden Visits. In summer, eight approved project gardens were visited by GSC members to answer any questions and provide information on resources available to assist each garden to meet the standards of a UW Extension project. On November 12th, we will discuss the checklists completed during the visits and share comments from the visits. We will use this information to assist us with topics for future Garden Chair Forums.

2015 Public Garden Tours. Susan Ratkowski and Liz Burke provided an updates for Public Garden Tours in 2015. This was last done in 2012 and was a successful event. If Susan or Liz contacts you to help with planning for this event, we hope you respond positively. If you would like to have your Approved Garden or Approved Youth Garden included in this event please contact Susan at rnsratkowski@joimail.com. We will have more information regarding the tours in the next newsletter.

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

by MGV Patty Witt, Membership Chair

SEWMG dues for 2015 are due by November 1st, 2014. Please use the application below when paying your dues and mail it to the PO Box address listed below. You can also get the form off of our website http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents/ Look under “Forms for Our Treasurer.”

Membership Chairperson

Patty Witt

SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, Inc.
Annual Dues Application
2015 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          ☐ Finances/accounting
☐ Computer skills           ☐ Teaching/education
☐ Project management        ☐ Administrative/support
☐ Event planning            ☐ 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 1st, 2014
On Friday evening, July 25th members of the UW-Extension SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, along with Sharon Morrisey and Ann Wied, participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Wauwatosa to show support to SEWMGV members who are battling cancer or have battled cancer. Their team, called “Gardeners for a Cure”, raised $3,639 in donations for the American Cancer Society. This team and their supporters purchased luminaries (lit up bags placed around the track) and put names on them of Master Gardeners who have cancer or have survived cancer. A big thank you to all who supported the team! Included below are some of the photos taken at the event!

Volunteer & Education Opportunities

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

I hope everyone has had time for garden clean-up so you can relax for a few weeks before the hectic holiday season begins.

I realize some MGs do not have easy access to a computer and the internet. In the MG workroom (room 211), at the Milwaukee County Extension offices on Watertown Plank Road, we have a binder that contains all the e-mails that have been sent by our SEWMG volunteers. The binder is located on top the file cabinet on your right as you enter the room. There is also a bulletin board in the hallway outside room 211. I put the latest schedule of work days for all our approved gardens for the next week on the bulletin board. Thank you to Candy Krepel for putting the schedule together each week.

MGVs volunteered recently:
- Booths: September 27th and 28th were warm sunny days so there were good crowds at the Harvest Fest and the Milwaukee County Fair and the 4 H junior fair. Thank you to the MGVs that volunteered.

Coming up...
- Booth: MGVs Jeff Trader & Nancy Randall will staff a booth for the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center & MIlw. 1st Nations Health Coalition - Community Wellness Event, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave., November 9th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- November and December are usually slower months for volunteer opportunities. Keep checking your e-mails for final garden clean ups.
- Help is always needed at the registration table for the Annual Meeting & Holiday Party Wednesday, December 10th. Call Patty Witt to volunteer.

Best Wishes to all,
Nancy

Page 6 Good Earth News
Ask Betsy
Have questions about your records, need to change your address, lost your nametag, wondering about your service deposit refund? Contact our new program assistant, Betsy Vokac. She is taking over the role that Kathy Reese formerly had with the MGV program. Thankfully, Kathy is still in our office just working on other projects. She will be helping Betsy with the transition. So, if there is something you need help with, contact Betsy first at elizabeth.vokac@ces.uwex.edu or call her at (414) 256-4672 and leave a message. Currently, she is in the office on Tuesdays. If she doesn’t know the answer, she'll find it as soon as possible.

Milwaukee County Budget
It’s County Budget season again. County Exec. Abele presented his recommended budget to the County Board on September 25th. The news for most of Milwaukee County Extension is very good. Changes and new programs requested by our Director, Eloisa Gomez, have been approved.

The bad news is that he eliminated funding for Nature In The Parks (NIP), an Extension program run by Extension staff through the Wehr Nature Center. This is an important educational program that serves thousands of youth and families in Milwaukee County parks each year. You and a child may have even participated in one of its programs at one time or another. No one else is doing programs like these in the parks. If this program is gone, so are the fishing clinics, summer nature camps and many, many more offerings.

The budget is now in the hands of the County Board’s Finance Committee for amendments. We hope one of these will be to restore the funding for NIP! There will be a Public Hearing on the evening of November 3rd. It is usually held at the Washington Park Senior Center and begins at 6:30 p.m. If you enjoy making a difference in the political process, please attend on behalf of Extension. Ask that funding for NIP be restored. And don’t forget to thank them for their continued support of Milwaukee County UW-Extension.

Construction Update
The end is near...that is, Watertown Plank Road construction is almost finished. Traffic is moving westbound as I write this and the entrance ramp to northbound 45 is open. Any day now there should be one lane of traffic on WPR moving in each direction under Rt. 45.

Parking Improvements
We are very happy to announce that recent discussions with WisDOT and the County have produced a plan for 20 new parking spaces, new paving and striping, and new sidewalks for our building by spring of 2015! By the end of October, the additional spaces will be available as temporary parking (that is gravel only) which should help ease the problems we have had for even small meetings here.

They have also devised a plan to allow Extension and our building partner, EMS, to have permits for specified parking spaces in the new parking lots of the Mental Health Complex, just east of our frontage road. That means that when large programs are scheduled in the Milwaukee County UWEX building during business hours, our staff will be given the permits to park in the overflow spaces, allowing program participants to park in the lot outside our doors.

In my opinion, it is probably wise to wait until the project has been completed next spring before scheduling any monthly SEWMG Business meetings at Milwaukee County UWEX. Evening and weekend programs will probably be fine even during the winter, especially once the Watertown Plank Road interchange at Rt. 45 is complete.

Roof Repairs
The Milwaukee County Extension office building will be having roof repairs made during the month of November. The flat roof has led to leaks over time and repairs are long overdue. There have been 2 garbage cans sitting next to our front doors in the lobby for months now, catching the drips that seem to occur even in dry weather! This should not cause any problems with access to our building.

Composting Consultants
In early October, 3 of our SEWMGs trained through the UWEX Master Composter volunteer program were called upon by local media for expert advice on composting. Deb Mauher and Dawn Truitt were both quoted heavily in the feature article on fall composting in the Fresh section of the Sunday Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on October 5th by journalist Joanne Kempinger Demski. Our MGVs gave spot-on advice about backyard composting while Betty Adelman’s Heritage Flower Farm near Mukwonago was the example of larger scaled compost production.

Jeanne Cohen had her television debut discussing composting live on the “In The Garden” segment of the Fox6 morning Wake-up News on Monday, October 6th. She explained the process and showed the procedures on three segments which can be viewed at http://fox6now.com/2014/10/06/composting-101-what-can-go-wrong-and-how-can-you-correct-it/ .

All of you “do Extension proud”, as they say.

Trips and Tours Committee:
Watch for the January/February Newsletter for registration and information about our annual trip to the Chicago Flower Show mid March 2015. Just when we are tired of winter and looking for a little spring.
Hort Shorts by Sharon Morrisey UWEX Horticulture Agent Milwaukee County

Crazy Worms Are Here
It was just mid-July when the first reported instance of crazy worms in the state was reported. I sent the official DNR factsheet to the SEWMG ListServe at that time (go to http://dnr.wi.gov and search for “invasive earthworms”). Reading about their potential to completely deplete the soil and reproduce more like rabbits than worms, many of us thought “here we go again with another invasive species to be on the lookout for”! That first report was from the UW-Arboretum in Madison where they were found in a few locations and the suspicion was that they were inadvertently introduced in potted nursery stock containers.

Since then, they have apparently been found in no less than 8 other locations in the state including Appleton at a commercial business, the Green Bay Botanical Gardens and several other locations around Brown County. They have also been confirmed at Wehr Nature Center in Whitnall Park in Hales Corners. Ironically, it was during a tour by DNR state expert on crazy worms, Bernie Williams after a lecture describing them to the public attending “bug day” at the nature center.

It really hit home, however, when an MGV living in Riverwest was asked to come take a look at a neighbor’s lily-of-the-valley bed that was mysteriously declining after 30 years. The MGV suspected crazy worms. I paid a visit and was stunned by what I saw. The ground in the area was completely covered by a dark, black crumbly layer about ¼ to ½ inch thick that looked like topsoil people often call “black dirt.” Just underneath that layer were numerous, fat, juicy worms, all 6 to 8 inches long that wriggled so fast when you tried to catch them that it was actually very hard to pick them up! Below that top layer of what was now obvious was worm castings, a layer of tan-colored dry soil completely devoid of any organic matter even though this established bed of lily-of-the-valley had been there with oak leaves dropping on it for 30 years!

As I write this, I am corresponding with Bernie Williams of the DNR to coordinate collecting specimen for her to more accurately identify the species of this particular genus, Amyntas. I do know that, at this time, no treatment is recommended. The only course of action is to use caution and avoid transferring them on tools or in soil. Great care should be exercised when purchasing potted plants and especially when sharing divisions. It is probably an issue we will need to address for our customers at the next SEWMG plant sale.

Lots ‘o Lichens
Who knew lichens had such a story to tell! A recent article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (10/6/2014) reported that the Wisconsin State Herbarium in Madison was now the repository of 180,000 lichens having recently acquired the collection of 60,000 from a German collector. This puts the herbarium in the top 1% of the world’s plant repositories.

Lichens are an association of an algae and a fungus which grow at very regular rates and can accumulate anything that comes out of the Earth’s atmosphere. Studying them can tell a lot about atmospheric changes over time. Various animals eat lichens which, when they in turn are eaten, can pass along any toxins they have accumulated.

To learn more about lichens in Wisconsin, see the Wisconsin Garden Facts series XHT1027 at http://pddc.wisc.edu.

Herbarium Open House
Try to take advantage of a rare opportunity to visit the Wisconsin State Herbarium in Madison for their Open House on Thursday, October 23rd from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. It is located in Birge Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. The event also promotes the publication of “Studying Wisconsin: The Life of Increase Lapham” by Martha Bergland and Paul G. Hayes. Lapham is considered to have been the state’s first great scientist. (People teaching SEWMG Level 1 Training will be unable to attend. Drats!)

Food Waste Composting
On September 10th, a resolution was adopted “directing the Milwaukee Dept. of Public Works to evaluate the feasibility, cost and benefits of implementing citywide household compost collection” of food scraps and yard waste. They are to report their findings to the Common Council within 90 days or by December 10th.

This is part of Mayor Barrett’s “40 by 2020” initiative which was targeted for implementation between 2014 and 2020. The cities of Portland, San Francisco and Seattle have already implemented such plans. In Wisconsin, Madison and Fitchburg have pilot programs for curbside collection of organic materials.

Diversion of this waste from landfills will reduce tipping fees, the savings from which could at least help fund the program.

Snail (or slug) Chucking?
On a lighter note, from an article sent to me by one of our MGVs from the SEWMG plant sale. (9/5/14), it seems English gardeners have a slimy little secret. They handle this year’s influx of garden snails, kin to our beloved slugs, by properly tossing them into the compost heap. But one in five gardeners admits that the warm, moist summer they are experiencing has driven them to chucking at least some of them into their neighbors’ yards. The practice is so common that scientists spent months putting little white dots on their shells and tracking whether or not they returned after being chuckled. Surprisingly, many did which may suggest that they possess a homing instinct. However, they also found that those thrown 65 feet or more usually did not return. Their recommendation to obtain the best cultural control, therefore, is to have a good throwing arm or to use “mechanically assisted lobbing.” How’s that for a research-based recommendation?
The 1890s Queen Anne style Kneeland Walker House (7406 Hillcrest Drive in Wauwatosa) was bought by the Wauwatosa Historical Society 1987. The home is a designated Wauwatosa Landmark, a Milwaukee County Landmark, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The gardens are representative of the late Victorian/early Edwardian planting style.

One and a half acres of lawn and gardens surround the home. Mixing diverse textures and large masses of flowers produce a stunning effect throughout the seasons.

These gardens feature old favorite perennials such as peonies, yarrow, phlox, and monarda. We have daylilies, roses, and many varieties of hosta. You will see annuals such as begonias, coleus, petunias, salvia, vinca, and our crowd-pleasing lisianthus as well as more unusual Victorian era plants such as santolina, alternanthera, iresene, and perilla magilla.

The gardens are open to the public free of charge except for a few times a year when they are rented for weddings and special events.
MGVs @ Work The Red Brick Museum & Gardens in Mukwonago by MGVs Vi Reinert & Bob Black

Built in 1842 by original Mukwonago settler Sewall Andrews, it was the first brick house in Waukesha County, and has been restored to a lovely Victorian home, reminiscent of the post-Civil War period. It was established as the Mukwonago Museum in 1967. A replica log cabin Trading Post is also on the property.

In 2013, the Red Brick Museum became an approved garden. The gardens are now maintained by three co-chairs and a dedicated group of other Master Gardeners and local volunteers. The gardens now consist of many annuals and perennials that line all of the buildings, as well as several free-standing gardens. There are also a number of trees, shrubs and a hedge.

Before the perennials, annuals and bulbs could be added, many hours were spent removing old plants and rocks. This year we were able to start a Heritage Garden along the side of the Red Brick House and add a second compost bin. There’s still work to be done.

We intend to continue improving the museum grounds and to educate visitors about the existing plants and about the heritage plants that would have been seen on the grounds in the nineteenth century. There is also a plan to put a rain garden in the back.
The Lowell Damon House Historic Garden is located at 2107 Wauwatosa Avenue (76th St.) in Wauwatosa. This garden is a project of SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners in cooperation with the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

The Lowell Damon House was built in the 1840s and is believed to be Wauwatosa’s oldest residence. By the 1880s the Damon family sold most of the surrounding land. The home and lot was given to the Milwaukee County Historical Society in 1941. It is operated as a museum, and the grounds are used by museum visitors and neighbors.

The grounds and garden had been neglected for several years when MGV

Cheryl Rasmann received permission to bring in Master Gardeners to do some clean-up and pruning in the autumn of 2011. The group pruned shrubs and trees, cut down several large buckthorn and Tree of Heaven plants, and cleared out brush and fallen branches. In spring of 2012 the Lowell Damon House Historic Garden became an approved SEWMG garden project.

MGVs continue to work on invasive plant eradication, weeding, identifying existing plants, and restoring the garden beds using period-appropriate (1880s) plant material. We are educating neighbors and visitors to Lowell Damon House about invasive species identification and eradication and new lawn care guidelines.

Our woodland bed illustrates the wide variety of native and shade plants that can be used in shady yards.

Our herb garden demonstrates how a variety of herbs can be incorporated into an overall garden plan.

As we continue to restore the other garden beds, we plan to include information on low environmental impact/semi-organic gardening, historic and native plants in a period-appropriate garden and butterfly habitats.
Located in Milwaukee’s Lake Park the lighthouse is a historic, maritime treasure. Since 1855, the North Point Lighthouse stood tall, overlooking the water and beaming out its light to protect and guide ships and watercraft. In 2010, North Point Lighthouse garden became a SEWMG approved project. The grounds are open 24/7 and there are people and wildlife enjoying the property everyday year round. North Point Lighthouse Friends, Lake Park Friends, Milwaukee County and the DNR all have interest in the property. We have learned to collaborate to form public and private partnerships for the benefit of the lighthouse grounds and the park area that surrounds it.

MGVs plant several large planters with annuals and perennials each year. We have added and replaced a number of shrubs and perennial plants over the last four years and continue to do so each season. There is a rain garden that needs some maintenance and we try to keep our educational signage and free information up to date and available for the public.

We have expanded our reach from the beds immediately surrounding the building to the forest edges along the north ravine to remove invasive species that are encroaching and choking out natives and other beneficial or desirable plants. MGVs also maintain the Victorian kitchen garden reminiscent of the time when Georgia Stebbins, the longest serving keeper of the lighthouse, had a vegetable and flower garden that was praised highly and frequently in The Milwaukee Journal during her tenure.

Each season we have guidelines and goals that we try to accomplish through a team approach and with as much fun, good humor and camaraderie as possible.
Our Mission Statement

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

South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners

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Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Grow with us

For more information:

Calendar Hotline (MGV Hotline) 414-256-4666
On the Web http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/
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Contact Information

Grow with us

Check out our website
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