

President's Corner

by Pat Adrian

Where can you learn:

- ⊗ How to make a ground cover bouquet?
- ⊗ Both gentle (think daylily divider tool) and brutal (think Sawzall/machete) plant division techniques?
- ⊗ How deeply to plant an iris?

If you answered "Pot-A-Thon," you're right! All of this knowledge and more is at your fingertips if you volunteer at the spring Pot-A-Thons. About half of all Master Gardener volunteers help dig/divide/pot/trim (and eventually sell) plants for the perennial Plant Sale held annually on the third Saturday in May; this year it's May 16th.

My first experience with a Master Gardener plant sale was to host a Pot-A-Thon at my home. A Plant Sale Committee member scouted out my yard in advance to assess plant varieties and quantities. On a later day, probably 20 or more SEWMG volunteers showed up to



help! A trailer arrived with supplies and potting tables. Volunteers were careful to dig the right plants, fill the holes, separate good dirt

from root scraps and transport the potted and labeled plants to my patio for safekeeping until the sale. Amazingly, MGVs were still smiling by the end of the day!



That day, I learned that sage doesn't need to be cut down after division and potting, that iris need to be planted so that the rhizomes are visible on top of the soil and that ground cover stems can be gathered together in a bouquet (roots down!) and stuck into the potting mix in a clump. And yes, a Sawzall comes in very handy in dividing grasses.

There are jobs for everyone who attends Pot-A-Thons. We can adjust table height for more comfort. There's always someone to help move the plant trays and sleds. Labeling can be done sitting down, if necessary. Best of all, you get to see beautiful yards as the spring bulbs and plants are at their best. You are guaranteed to leave a Pot-A-Thon with new ideas for your own gardens.

Don't miss the Plant Sale! As I looked over my notes from last year's Level 2 training and WIMGA Conference classes, I noticed that several of the speakers recommended some of the same plants. Speakers from Monches Farms, Boerner Botanical Gardens, Northwind Perennial Farm, Terra Nova, Johnson Nursery, Yard MD, and Landworks all mentioned plants like Prairie Dropseed (*Sporabilis*), Hummelo Lamb's Ear (*Stachys monieri*), Korean Spice/ Spice Island Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii*), *Amsonia hubrechtii* "Blue Star", Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa*), Tiger Eyes Sumac (*Rhus typhina* "Bailtiger"). It was no coincidence that I was able to purchase all of the aforementioned plants at the SEWMG Plant Sale last spring because our Master Gardener donations included some very desirable and highly acclaimed plants. Best of all, these plants were all locally grown in soil just like yours.

At the Plant Sale, you will find plants grouped for



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South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners

Good Earth News

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Quote of the day:

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." Abraham Lincoln.

President's Corner *by Pat Adrian*

(Continued from page 1)

ready-made butterfly gardens or sun gardens. UW-Extension staff and SEWMG volunteers provide advice, brochures, and demonstrations. A volunteer might even help pull your sled! Plants are fully labeled so that you can select just the right plant for that favorite (or problem) garden spot. And we keep the sale fresh for customers every year by providing flowering trees and shrubs from vendors. There's always a surprise -

Perennial Plant Sale Timeline

Spring - Pot-A-Thons (dig, divide and plant perennials)

May 11th -14th - Set up at State Fair Park

May 15th - MGV-only preview sale

May 16th - Sale Day

sometimes it's an heirloom tomato plant; one year there were Voodoo Lily shoots; or possibly spring/summer flowering bulbs. It's worth the trip. Mark your calendar for May 16th, 2015!

The year 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the SEWMG perennial Plant Sale. The first sale was conducted in a back yard by a membership of about 45. As membership grew, the sales became larger and more sophisticated. Today SEWMG's 400+ members donate 12,000-15,000 plants annually. The sale attracts crowds that line up an hour before the sale opens.

Ours is the only large-scale plant sale in the area that focuses so heavily on education. We have such an effective and innovative approach that we have nominated our Plant Sale for the International Master Gardener's Conference Search for Excellence

Award. I'll keep you posted about any news on that front. As of January 7th, 2015, our application was sent out to the panel of judges.

Many thanks to all of you who help make our Plant Sale such a success. And thanks to others who are busy with community gardens and educational efforts in the spring. We are looking forward to seeing all the new SEWMG volunteers who signed up at the January Volunteer Fair.



Volunteer & Education Opportunities

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

This is a great time to start planning your volunteer hours for the spring and summer! The approved gardens will need your help for spring clean up and then, as the weather warms up, planting, watering and weeding. The plant sale activities including the Pot-A-Thons, set up and sale day events will all need MGV support.

If you are interested in presenting to a group, spring is a popular time for requests on many different topics. Attend the "Speakers Workshop" to update your skills. Keep watching the website and your e-mails to stay current with volunteer and educational opportunities.

Here is a sampling of what our members have been up to:

January and February:

1-17: Dave Wanninger spoke after the Volunteer Opportunity Fair, presenting the topic, "New Shrubs and Perennials."
1-21: MGVs staffed a booth at the 2015 Garden Center Symposium/Midwest

Perennial Conference.

2-4: Volunteer Celebration, Graduation for 2013 class and recognition for MGVs

2-7: Dan Panetti spoke, informing about "Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat."

2-14: Speakers Workshop - tips and tricks for speakers was held at Milwaukee County Extension Office.

Upcoming Educational & Volunteer Opportunities:

February 20 - 22: LifeLong Gardening- Kay Costello presentation at the Daylily Society WI Winter Wonderland Symposium

March: Level 2 Training will be offered - see Sharon's article on page 4.

March 7th: Tech Workshop - Creating PowerPoint Presentations, 9:00 a.m. - Noon MCCE on Watertown Plank Rd.

March 11th: Educational Focus for 2015 at MCCE on Watertown Plank Rd. starting at 6:30 p.m.

March 19th: Garden Chair Forum @ Boerner Botanical Gardens from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

March 20th - 29th Home and Garden Show: *Volunteers have been scheduled but call Faouzi to volunteer for the backup list, 414 352-6557.*

April 1st: Organic Gardening presentation by Karen Kindel, at the Beloit Road Senior Apartments at 1 p.m.

April 14th: Straw Bale Gardening 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Pettit National Ice Center. Watch e-mails for registration information.

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, March 11, 2015, right after the MGV Business Meeting (about 10:45 a.m.) at the Waukesha County Courthouse.

SEWMG Volunteer Opportunity Fair (VOF)

On Saturday, January 17th, the GSC organized a very successful VOF. This event is for our new Master Gardeners in Training as well as any of our seasoned Master Gardeners (MGVs) to check out the venues to sign up to earn your 24 required volunteer hours. This event was held at the Boerner Botanical Gardens Education and Visitors Building.



Forty-three approved Garden Projects and other MGVs Projects set up displays about their gardens or projects. Thanks to all the MGV for the beautiful and informative displays. Two hundred and ten Master Gardeners-In-Training and MGVs attended this event. There was lots of energy and excitement among the attendees. It was a chance to socialize and learn about approved projects on a blustery day in January. And the refreshments were great! Thanks to all

you bakers!

Also thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the set up on Friday and to those who helped with the cleanup at the end of the event. Many hands made the set up and cleanup happen in short order. THANKS!

SEWMGV Garden Chair Forum

Thursday, March 19th, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Boerner Botanical Gardens Education and Visitors Building, this event is for all Approved Garden Chairs. Any MGVs who volunteer at one

of the approved gardens are also welcome to attend and learn more about some of the administrative tasks in operating an approved garden. Some of the topics that will be presented are:

1. Information on signs and garden stakes that can be purchased for approved gardens thru the GSC Budget.
2. Review of Reimbursement, Budget, Annual Reports and Memorandum of Understanding Forms including due dates for these forms.
3. Review of the improved spreadsheets to list your volunteer and education hours to maintain your membership as a MGV.
4. Distribution of an updated brochure outlining the duties and

responsibilities of being an approved Garden Chair.

5. Expectations for Approved Gardens
6. Garden Chairs will be asked for their input (panel discussion/round table, etc.) on topics such as keeping volunteers and suggestions for successful plants and tools.
7. Carolyn Dressler will once again prepare a power point presentation of "What's New for 2015" regarding flower and plant varieties.

We hope to see all the garden/project chairs in attendance or at least send a representative in their places if they cannot be there.

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 have been selected and approved. The public visits 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 the selected gardens in the next newsletter. Save the date and tell your friends about garden tours.

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

Garden Chair Forum

Thursday, March 19th - 6:30 p.m.
Boerner Botanical Gardens

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

Continuing Education Opportunities

Mandatory Reporter Training

March 1st is when all new MGVs are required to have completed the training for Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect (MRCAN). You may do it on-line or attend the group training on Monday, Feb. 23rd at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee Co. Extension office on Watertown Plank Road. Please RSVP to Sharon Morrisey. (1 hr. C.E.)

SEWMG Level 2 Training



Registration will be announced shortly for this training for certified MGVs. The topic this year is *Gardening with Wildlife*. It will be held from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. on four Thursday evenings starting March 5th at Boerner Botanical Gardens (except March 19th which is the Garden Chair Forum). Registration will be sent by ListServe and US mail for those without e-mail. We will also post it to the website on the Training page so you can check there if you think you might have missed the e-mail. (10 hr. C.E.)

2015 Ed Focus Presentation

Container Gardening is the topic we are focusing on this year for our new educational initiative. As such, it will be the topic of the booth for the Realtors' Home & Garden Show March 20 - 29th. We will also develop an educational brochure and a PowerPoint presentation. I will give this presentation to SEWMGs on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee County UW-Extension office on Watertown Plank Road. Registration



is not required. (1.5 hr. C.E.) Plan to attend if you will be a Home Show volunteer or if you want make public presentations throughout the year. This is a popular and frequently asked for topic.

Rain Garden Workshop

If you are sure you want to plant a rain garden and you are ready to do the design and order the plants from MMSD for half-price, this workshop is for you. On Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 a.m. - noon UW-Extension educators, MMSD and Veolia are teaming up to help you make that rain garden a reality. This free, public workshop also includes a tour of Jones Island and a few other goodies. Registration information will be sent by ListServe. If you do not have e-mail, call Sharon Morrisey to receive a brochure. (3 hr. C.E.)

We are also looking for volunteers who would like to assist others at the workshop with their plant selection. Call Sharon Morrisey to volunteer.

Pruning Workshops

See article on page 7 in this issue.

Plant Health Advisor (PHA) Training

Answering people's plant questions and diagnosing their plant problems is absolutely the best way to learn. PHAs specialize in this aspect of being a MGV and volunteer at the Hort Help Lines (Milwaukee and Waukesha Co. Ext. offices), the Hort Center and Garden Cart at Boerner, at farmers' markets, booths and events.

A special training session for individuals interested in being a PHA will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd at Boerner Botanical Gardens from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. It is designed for MGVs new to diagnostics and plant problems assistance for the general public. To register, e-mail Sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex.edu. (4.5 hr. C.E.)

Wisconsin Hort Updates

Weekly teleconferences of UW hort personnel from around the state are held all summer on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Most weeks include a speaker on a special topic as well. These

sessions are archived and can be listened to or the transcripts can be read for C.E. credit for SEWMGs. Go to

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wihortupdate/> now for last year's sessions. This year's sessions begin on April 16th.



Master Composter Training

See article On page 3 in this issue.

Volunteer Opportunities

Display Makers

We need MGVs who like to creatively display gardening information to make it eye-catching as well as easy to understand. There are many opportunities each year for MGVs to have an educational display at an event or festival. We also have a changing exhibits in the lobby of the Milwaukee County Extension office and the Horticulture Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens. Judging by the displays at the Volunteer Fair, many of you have the talent for this. If you would like to assist with other projects, contact Sharon Morrisey.

PACA Youth Gardening Project

The children who attend the Pan-African Community Association at 65th and Capital in Milwaukee are recent immigrants who with their families are adjusting to life here. PACAs After School program's focus is tutoring but the other activities, like the gardening project, provide richness and social assimilation. Once a week, UWEX and MGVs provide lessons related to plants and gardening. Throughout the gardening season, activities revolve around the on-site garden there. If you would like to help with gardening sessions, contact Sharon Morrisey.

In-House Education Committee

by MGV Rita Piper, Committee Chair

It's a fact! Our SEWMGs clamor to get their education credits leading to full sessions with long waiting lists. We understand that those of you who are wait listed are disappointed; unfortunately, there are not many venues in the area that seat over 200, so options are limited. Please remember, that although the In-house Education Committee organizes 6-7 sessions a year, there are many many other educational options in the community. Check your e-mail, as other master gardeners and Sharon Morrissey frequently send e-mails showcasing other educational opportunities.

Over 200 master gardeners were entranced with Boerner's Head Horticulturist, Dave Wanninger's entertaining session on *Shrubs, Trees, Perennials--What's New*. Dave shared his passion and insight on new and improved varieties, complete with gorgeous photos making us yearn for spring. So, fellow Master Gardeners, start digging out those few remaining patches of grass to create more planting space for the recommended varieties of Diervilla, Hydrangea, Peony, Hosta, Brunnera, Huechera and Hellebores.

At the time of the newsletter submission, about 180 of us registered for Dan Panetti's session on Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Join us on April 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Pettit Center for **Steps to Successful Straw Bale Gardening**



Are you looking for a totally different way to garden this summer? Then try Straw Bale Gardening, where vegetables and flowers are planted directly into bales of straw. It's a fun option in any garden, and is a perfect gardening solution for people with limited space or physical limitations that prevents them from stooping or bending. Since the properly cured bale heats to 90 degrees, you can get the garden planted at least 3 weeks ahead of the normal planting date in your climate zone with straw bale growing and makeshift row covers.

Mike Paik will teach us about the advantages of using straw bale gardening methods. He will explore practical steps, such as planning, purchasing and conditioning the bales. Other topics like, specific crops that work well, watering requirements, and troubleshooting tips will also be explored. Finally, simple trellising ideas as well as methods to encourage early germination of plants will also be shared.

Biography: Mike Paik grew up on a farm in Delafield, WI. His job of 46 years is Research and Design. He views his property and gardens as a bountiful gift whereupon he can put into practice working components of sustainable living like growing food locally, composting, winter gardening, and other permaculture



practices. He and his wife host a community garden on their 3-acre property. They are members of the Waukesha Green Team and view their role as stewards of the planet with joy and hopeful expectations.

Note: We are still confirming the time for this session.

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 21st, 2015 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 & 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 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.

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

My committee and I hope you are enjoying the New Year and looking forward to spring.

Our trip to the Chicago Flower Show will be on Friday, March 20th and you would have received information if you are on the bus.

Watch upcoming newsletters for information on our tour and educational presentation at Jerry Nelson's home tentatively set for Wednesday, May 27th. Our summer trip to Craig Bergmann's home and garden and Cantigny will be on Friday, July 17th and you will also need to check your e-mails and the newsletter for details and registration times.

We are hoping for good weather so we can all enjoy our scheduled outings for this year. Don't forget to check your e-mails and especially the newsletter for information on trips. Wishing you all a great spring and gardening season.



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



Winter Sowing

Mentioned by a caller to the Larry Meiller Garden Talk show on Wisconsin Public Radio in January this technique for starting seeds caught the attention of many of our MGVs. While no Extension publications seem to exist on the subject, plenty of MGVs around the country seem to be advocates.

It is a method of producing quality seedlings of many vegetable, herb and flower varieties outdoors in late winter and early spring by creating mini greenhouses from milk jugs and carry-out dinner containers. Drainage in the bottoms and ventilation in the tops should be provided. The containers are then filled with seed starting mix, seeds sown at the proper depth for each variety and the containers set outside. The only work is to keep the soil from drying out and to prevent heat build-up on warm sunny days.

When the time and temperatures are right, the seeds will germinate and grow into sturdy seedlings. By cutting the ventilation holes larger and larger, the seedlings become acclimated and can then be planted outdoors or moved to larger containers.

Seeds to try include any varieties that naturally self-seed in the garden or are cold tolerant such as the cole crops, spinach, lettuce, snapdragons, alyssums, marigolds, zinnias, etc. If you try this, keep some records and let me know how well it worked for you.

Shamrocks or Oxalis

The shamrocks of St. Patrick's Ireland were actually yellow or white clovers.



Today it is woodsorrel, one of many *Oxalis* spp. that are sold for this holiday. Newer ones in current use have shorter dormancies than older ones that used to require rest periods of up to 3 months before resuming growth. Growth comes from underground storage organs called "pips" which multiply readily. They can be dug separated into multiple containers almost annually. In general, *Oxalis*' prefer moist soil and cool temperatures. They are also nyctinastic, which means both leaves and flowers fold downward at night and open again each morning.

Plant a Pot 'O Pansies

My first act of the gardening season is to plant a pot (or 6) of pansies. How early is only limited by when the garden centers begin to carry them for sale. Late March is when I start looking. Being shade tolerant, the pots can be placed anywhere. Plus being cold tolerant means they don't need to be moved in and out as spring freezes and snow occur. Almost every year, a snowfall covers my pots at least once before spring has truly arrived.

Plant a Sack 'o Potatoes

You've probably heard of planting potatoes in a tub or bin. If you have kids to garden with, get a jump on the season and try planting spuds in thick plastic grocery store bags. Poke a few holes in the bottom and sides of the bag and roll down the top several inches to help them stand up. Then add about 3" of container mix. Use seed potatoes sold at the garden center. The small ones can be planted whole and the larger ones cut into chunks. In each bag, place



only one or two potatoes or pieces and then water. The bags can be left outside even if it's cold. In Wisconsin, potatoes are planted in the ground around the middle of April.

As the plants emerge and stems and leaves grow 6" tall or so, add a couple more inches of soil leaving a few leaves exposed. Continue until the bag is completely full. Keep the sack watered but not wet enough to rot the potatoes. The stems and leaves will naturally yellow and die back when the potatoes are ready to harvest. The bags tend to disintegrate from the UV light of the sun, so plan to empty them and place onto a piece of plastic or cardboard. Seeing those spuds roll out of the sack never grows old.



UW Extension Pruning Workshop Offered

Two University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Hands-On Pruning Workshops will be offered in March. Choose the date and location that works best for you!

Pruning workshops will be held:

- ☼ **Tuesday, March 24, 2015** - 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the **Nashotah Fire Station**, N44W32787 Rasmus Rd, Nashotah
- ☼ **Saturday, March 28, 2015** - 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the **Community Room at the Franklin City Hall**, 9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin.

Maps to these locations can be found and downloaded at <http://waukesha.uwex.edu/horticulture/horticulture-programs/>

Registration will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Act fast if interested. Space is limited. Registration could close early if classes are filled.

The workshop will include an indoor presentation on pruning techniques and tools followed by an outdoor, hands-on pruning component where participants will be given the opportunity to practice what they have learned. The workshop will be team taught by Ann Wied, Waukesha County UW-Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator and Sharon Morrissey, Milwaukee County UW-Extension Consumer Horticulture Agent.

Pruning tools will not be provided. Participants should bring their own hand pruning tools and gloves and dress for the weather including comfortable shoes or boots. Workshop will be held regardless of weather. In case of extreme weather, call 414-256-4660 on the day of the workshop, one hour before the scheduled time, to confirm that the workshop will be held. Questions about workshop should be directed to Christa at 262-548-7775. Confirmations to this workshop will be done by e-mail or phone call. We prefer e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, you must have voice mail with your phone number so we can leave a message.

Cost of the workshop: \$20 for UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and \$30 for the General Public. No telephone registrations will be accepted. Fill out the registration form on the bottom of page and mail in with your registration fee.

Mail registration form and check (Payable to: University of Wisconsin Extension) Mail to: UW-Extension Waukesha County, Pruning Workshop, 515 West Moreland Blvd AC G22, Waukesha, WI 53188

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating, UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA

----- **Pruning Workshops Registration Form (Clip Bottom Form & Mail with Check)** -----

Did you attend the UW-Extension Pruning Workshop in before? ___Yes ___No

(If you attended a pruning workshop in the past, your name will be placed on a waiting list.

You will be contacted only if space becomes available.)

Fee: \$20 - UW-Extension Master Gardeners \$30 - General Public (Check payable to University of Wisconsin Extension)

Choose date:

___ **Tuesday, March 24, 2015 - 9:00 am to Noon, Nashotah Fire Station, Nashotah**

___ **Saturday, March 28, 2015 - 9:00 am to Noon, Community Room at the Franklin City Hall**

Are you a Master Gardener Volunteer? ___Yes ___No If yes, ___Milwaukee County ___Waukesha County ___Other

Name _____ County Where You Reside _____

Address _____ City _____ WI ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Mail registration form and check to: UW-Extension Waukesha County, Pruning Workshop, 515 West Moreland Blvd AC G22, Waukesha, WI 53188

MGVs @ Work Healing Garden at Froedtert Health Community Memorial Hospital

adapted form the Froedtert Health at Community Memorial Hospital

Foundation's brochure about the Healing Garden

"Research has found that surgical patients with views of nature have shorter post-operative stays, take less pain medication and experience fewer complications.

The Healing Garden provides a unique environment of beauty, silence, and serenity--the kind that nurtures the body, mind and spirit and promotes healing. It is a place to experience the outdoors as the seasons and world change around us. The garden is a place to think, pray, grieve, hope, give thanks and remember.

Located on the hospital's campus, the Healing Garden is approximately 7500 sq. ft. and is easily viewed and accessed from the main building as well as the parking lot. It is home to trees, perennial and annual plants and flowers, sitting areas, a fountain and other naturally inspiring scenery. It serves as a quiet oasis, a respite and a place of solitude for patients, their families and staff. Quite simply, the Healing Garden is where (people) can find reduced stress, increased energy and restored hope.

All gardens, like life and recovery, are a work in progress. Every year the UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers led by Betty Breen and CMH Grounds staff strive to maintain and enhance the Garden's beauty through replacement planting and the addition of new perennial and annual flowers or shrubs..."

Currently there are about 10 SEWMG Volunteers who feel it is a privilege to enhance and maintain this special place. To volunteer at this garden, contact MGV Betty Breen at bpolcyn@att.net.



Memorial Kris Jensen

by MGVs Cheryl Rasmann & Kit Hansen

Past President Kris Jensen was chair of the Lowell Damon House Historic Gardens and instrumental in the gardens becoming an approved garden project. The Lowell Damon House was built in the 1840s and is believed to be Wauwatosa's oldest residence. It was Kris' vision that the gardens be restored to what they might have been



like in the 1880s. In honor of Kris' vision, those of us who worked with Kris at Lowell Damon House are planning to plant a Serviceberry tree in the Lowell Damon House Historic Garden with a memorial stone in Kris' memory.



MGVs @ Work Learning Gardens at Kradwell *by MGV Geri-lynn Bialzik*



The Learning Gardens at Kradwell surround Kradwell School, located on the 30-acre campus of Aurora Behavioral Health, 1220 Dewey Ave., just south of the village in Wauwatosa. The gardens were installed in October of 2010.

As Kradwell is an alternative school for grades 5 - 12, the gardens were designed not only for students to learn the basics of seed starting and transplanting, along with plant nutritional value, but also to enjoy the



therapeutic aspect of the outdoors and the garden ambiance. To that end, a vegetable garden was augmented with an upland prairie, two rain gardens, a sensory garden, a butterfly garden, a gazebo and a pond. Besides students, staff and clients of Aurora can also be found taking advantage of the peaceful setting.

In the past, herbs, tomatoes, peppers and squash have been used in easy recipes for the students to eat, often for the first time. Decorative gourds



and pumpkins have been combined with tall grasses to make fall decorations for the porch area in front of the school.

Geri-lynn Bialzik (markgerilynn@sbcglobal.net) is the garden chair; Kelly Kramer (kelkramer@hotmail.com) is co-chair. Feel free to contact either with questions or if you'd like information on volunteering.



MGVs @ Work Oasis Garden at Oconomoc Memorial Hospital

by MGVs Mary Jane Swedberg and Ann Sokop

The Oasis Garden at Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital is located in Oconomowoc, WI outside the Emergency Department. The garden was approved as a SEWMGV volunteer garden three years ago. This spring will mark the 4th growing season and much progress has been made as we started from scratch with empty planting beds.

Featured in the garden is an herb bed where we grow a variety of herbs that the OMH Dietary Department chef uses in the Bistro 791 hospital cafeteria. We also have two perennial beds with some



annuals added for color. A beautiful glass wind sculpture donated by a hospital physician and his wife graces one of the perennial beds. At the north end of the garden are two shrub beds with grasses, shrub roses and other shrubs. Various trees winding through the garden and a gravel path leads to a patio area with table, chairs and benches for patients, families and staff to relax in an outdoor area surrounded by beautiful plants. This spring, we are hoping to add a pergola for added shade and comfort.

community effort with MGVs, OMH hospital volunteers, hospital department members, Kettle Moraine Garden Club and the Lion's Club all providing monetary or garden upkeep assistance.

The Oasis Garden is truly a combined

Mary Jane Swedberg is the chairperson for the garden. She can be reached at maryswedberg@gmail.com. Co-chair is Ann Sokop (msokop@wi.rr.com). We welcome anyone who would like to join us in garden upkeep. We are very flexible in our work schedule with most workers spending time in the garden when it is convenient for them.



MGVs @ Work Ronald McDonald House Secret Garden

by MGV Ann Phillips

The Ronald McDonald House Secret Garden designed by Vicky Garcia has been a SEWMG approved project since 2002. We now have 18 gardeners in the Garden every weather-worthy day, from April through November.

The House began with 25 rooms, added 13 long-term rooms and in 2014 expanded into a total of 70 rooms! The Secret Garden has also expanded. The Brewer's Community Foundation gave us a beautiful playground and Randy Wolf financed a patio, grilling area and raised vegetable gardens. Eagle Scouts built a playhouse we tucked into a grove of Austrian Pines. We helped repurpose a room in the House, named it the Green Room and filled it with plants from NASA's Clean Air Study.

A four-season garden, the families enjoy its back yard and interactive garden. We garden with them and staff in the vegetable gardens and have Family Garden Education Programs all year. We have an Alphabet Garden of perennials, a Fairy Garden, a Mesozoic Garden of living fossil plants, a redesigned water feature island, an updated sprinkler and lighting system. Already a certified National Wildlife Backyard Habitat, we are working to become a Monarch Way Station. We have an organic garden specializing in Native Wisconsin plants. The families enjoy picking berries and ripened tomatoes, and using other fresh vegetables and herbs in cooking their meals.

The Secret Garden provides comfort, pleasure, rejuvenation and peace to staff, volunteers and guest families. A memorial plant is chosen for each child who passes away. Since 2011 we have planted 60 plants, each with a heart and the name of the child. We write to the families, send photos and let them know we will always remember. Families come back to visit the garden, photograph their plant and experience again the comfort the Secret a Garden gives. The Garden speaks when there are no words.

Contact Ann Phillips nana@milwpc.com if you'd like to volunteer.



MGVs @ Work Waukesha Memorial Hospital ProHealth Gardens

adapted from an article by Kathleen Miller, WMH

In 2014, Ann Wied, forged a collaboration between the Extension, SEWMG and Waukesha Memorial Hospital to grow fresh produce and educate the community on the hospital grounds. The kitchen garden was created, cultivated and managed by master gardeners in the hospital's campus cafeteria courtyard. MGVs and



dietary staff worked together to teach nutrition, provide recipes, and demonstrate ways fresh produce could be healthily grown, and consumed at home.

The gardens became a centerpiece and an educational tool for those who attended monthly talks given by MGVs



and hospital staff during the growing season. Another benefit was that most of the garden's produce was donated to the Waukesha Food Panty.

Master gardeners will continue to cultivate the garden and educate the community this year. Contact Ann Wied ann.wied@uwex.ces.edu to volunteer.





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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For more information:

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Our Mission Statement

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