



Good Earth News

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Keeping Fall Gourds “Gourgeous” by Sharon Morrissey

Whether you grew the gourds yourself or bought them at the farmers’ market or the store, you can enjoy them for a very long time if you treat them right. Maybe for years, depending upon your choice of gourd and your artistic tendencies!

Ornamental gourds come from three distinct genera: *Cucurbita*, *Lagenaria*, and *Luffa*. The smallish, brightly colored, variously shaped and textured ones are the *Cucurbita* types. They have thicker skins and take longer to dry. *Lagenaria* are the bottle or dipper gourds and have thinner skins that become extremely hard when cured. These can be carved into utensils, containers, birdhouses and a wide variety of works of art. *Luffa* sponges result from soaking *Luffa* gourds until the skin peels away from the membranes inside which can then be bleached, cut and shaped to use as bath or kitchen sponges.

If you grow your own, harvest them fully mature which is indicated by the drying of the stem holding the fruit to the vine. Be careful not to nick or bruise the rind for obvious reasons. Leave them on the vine until the first frost is imminent. The *Cucurbitas* should be harvested before the first frost or they will not cure and store well. Frost does not affect the bottle and luffa types. Cut the stems leaving as much as possible on the gourd for decorative purposes and to prevent infection.

Surface curing for about a week is the first step. Wash them with soapy water and rinse with clean water that contains a household disinfectant and then dry thoroughly. Place them so that they are not touching on cardboard or newspaper in a warm, dry place like a sunny window or porch. Turn them a couple times and replace any cardboard or paper that is wet. Discard any immature fruit that shrivels or molds.

Next, move them to a warm, dry, dark spot to finish drying inside again on paper or cardboard and not touching. Too much light at this point can fade the colors. When the seeds rattle inside, drying is complete. This could take as little as a week to as much as 3 months.

The dry gourds can be left in a natural state or treated for displaying. Wax gourds with paste wax and buff to a high shine. Shellac them for a hard, glossy finish. Paint ones that have dulled in color using spray paint. Gild them with silver or gold paint or powder on top of the shellac.

For birdbottle gourds, drill a hole through the neck and thread a thick wire through to use for hanging the gourd. The opening on the side should be 1½ inches in diameter for wrens and bluebirds and 2¼ inches for martins and barn swallows.

Growing gourds requires a site in full sun and takes 100 – 180 days to maturity. The ones that take the longest should be started inside in peat pots or newspaper pots about 4 weeks before planting outside after all danger of frost has passed (around Memorial Day here). Vines can grow 25 to 100 feet per season so allow plenty of room or train them up a trellis or fence or over a sturdy arbor. This actually improves the shape and quality of the fruit. If left to sprawl on the ground, use a mulch layer to keep them cleaner and turn each fruit a couple of times during the season to even out the color. Avoid too much nitrogen but apply a high phosphorus fertilizer pre-planting and again when the vines start to “run.” Water thoroughly each week until late August when dryer conditions will speed maturity.

As members of the *Cucurbitaceae* family, gourds are susceptible to all the same insects and diseases as their relatives, the cucumbers, summer squashes, melons, and winter squashes. This includes squash bug, squash vine borer, cucumber beetle, aphids, bacterial wilt, powdery mildew, angular leaf spot and mosaic viruses.

Download a factsheet from <http://suffolk-lamp.cit.cornell.edu/Horticulture-Leaflets/> type gourds in the search box at the top of the page. The American Gourd Society website is <http://americangourdsociety.org/WIGS/home.html> .

News from the County Offices by Sharon Morrissey & Ann Weid



MGV Training Schedule to Change

And change is a good thing, right? Sharon's unexpected medical issues have made it necessary to reschedule 2012 General Training. The uncertainty of the timeline for her procedures and recovery makes it impossible to just postpone it by a couple of weeks. Besides, that would then also interfere with community gardening programming that Ann does in the spring. Therefore, after consulting with many colleagues, volunteers, and managers, we have arrived at the following decision.

Beginning in 2012, General Training (called Level 1 Training now) for the SEWMGs *will be held in the fall* instead of the spring as it traditionally has been. Classes will begin in early September and run for 13 weeks through mid-December. There will still be 2 sections, one in Milwaukee and one in Waukesha, one in the evening and one during the day. As for Specialty Training (Level 2), it will be held in the spring beginning in 2013 – probably during February and March when we all have cabin fever anyway! Furthermore, if all works out, we may offer another Summer Specialty Training in 2012 (which are now considered Level 3 Training).

This change has many advantages that we can discuss later. Unfortunately, there is one big disadvantage for the spring of 2012. Without a new class of trainees, we will not have that influx of brand new, enthusiastic volunteers, anxious to get started on their volunteer service. That will mean that all of you who are already serving so diligently, will really need to step up to help with the big projects like Plant Sale and the opening of the demo gardens.

We are really sorry for any inconvenience this may cause any of you. I know there are about 250 people who have inquired about becoming MGVs that were counting on the spring of 2012 being the year for them. All we can do is ask them to hold out for the fall. I think most of them will find the program is well worth the wait.

County Fair a Soggy Success

Everyone I've talked to agrees that everything was in place this year for the best Milwaukee County Fair yet. Too bad it rained and rained and rained. Those that braved the weather were rewarded with so much

to see and do. The Harvest Fair organizers tried many new ideas this year that spread out the activities into almost the entire south end of the fairgrounds. Combine that with the several other groups that were having events there and elsewhere on the grounds and it was like State Fair lite.

Thanks to the 20 some SEWMG volunteers that helped set-up, make grapevine wreath decorations, staff the booth and the 'Model Backyard,' serve as Plant Doctors and give presentations. Thanks, too, to the SEWMG organization for your financial sponsorship again this year.

Garden Workdays in Late October

Start on your 2012 volunteer hours now. Check the Garden Workdays list on the SEWMG website at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/volunteers/>. The spring and fall workdays are a great way to get to see other MGV Gardens and your help at that time is greatly appreciated.

Educational Focus 2012

This year's topic for us all to focus on and learn as much as we can about will be "Organic Lawn Care" and the new lawn care fertilizer recommendations. Over the course of this summer and fall, our specialists have produced or revised some major publications to provide us the research-based information we need to equip us to give reliable, non-biased advice to homeowners about caring for their lawns. "Lawn Fertilization" (A2303) and "Lawn Watering" (A3950) have been revised to reflect the results of recent research at UW-Madison. The brand new publication just announced in September is called "Organic Lawn Care" (A1990). This is especially exciting news because it is the only publication on this subject from any of the midwestern states' Extension researchers. And it is targeted to the WI homeowner audience. These publications are all available for downloading from <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/>.

As in other years, a team of MGVs and I will create a display for our big pop-up display unit and an accompanying brochure in an appealing format. I will produce a PowerPoint presentation suitable for homeowner audiences. I will present that first to MGVs as a training session. Then it will be available to MGVs to use in making presentations for local groups who request a gardening presentation.

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President's Corner

Where does the time go? This year has rushed by and the beautiful colors of fall are upon us. All of us have worked diligently to put our gardens to bed and soon it will be time to read up on what's new in gardening for the spring of 2012. This year has been another good one for SEWMGs.

The Long Term Planning Committee has worked on reviewing what we have done and are envisioning new ideas for the future. The Garden Support Committee has continued to share information with the garden chairs and endorse the various gardens. New forms have been designed to help the chairmen request and report. We hope those chairmen realize what an integral part they play in the management of their gardens.

A Veggie Garden Tour was held to encourage the community to consider vegetable gardening. Our Plant Sale Committee works all year to improve the already well-run Plant Sale Day. This year we will hear about the leap into technology. The Level Two education classes are continuing to meet and, even if you thought you weren't so interested in native plants, suddenly you are familiar with them. It feels good. At the specialty training, one sees master gardeners that one hasn't seen in a long while. It is almost a reunion. SEWMGs are a big family.

I continually wonder how our horticultural agent and educator can continue to have so many balls in the air. Indeed, much is accomplished in those offices

and somehow there are listening ears for us as well. Again we experienced a wonderful State Fair and County Fair. The public **will** be educated about gardening which is one of our main missions. Our Master Gardener gardens surround us and are important to the cities in which we live. Many of us participate in just our own way. Indeed, SEWMG is a marvelous interweaving of skills.

My term is ending and I say thank you to all of you for supporting me and the other officers as we work for you. The opportunity to serve this year was appreciated. It was fun to get to know more of you and become acquainted with the work you are doing. The organizational jobs are fun and I wish more of you would become a member of a committee and/or take on leadership roles. There is such a variety of talent in our group. Please be vocal and let the officers know what you need. Also there is currently an attempt to evaluate the needs of various age groups, of those working and those who are retired. You may have some ideas about that.

Now it is time for the new officers to be elected at the Christmas Party which I hope many of you will attend. The officers will be off and running with new ideas and energy and I wish them the best. May all of you have good experiences with your gardening projects and gardening friends.

Thanks for all you do!
Mary Thiele
SEWMG President

The Long Term Planning Committee has worked on reviewing what we have done and are envisioning new ideas for the future. The Garden Support Committee has continued to share information with the garden chairs and endorse the various gardens. New forms have been designed to help the chairmen request and report.

Special Saturday Educational Program: "Digging Deeper"

A special educational program is planned for Saturday, November 19th, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. SEWMG recognizes that some MGVs find it difficult to complete their education hours because our programs are usually scheduled during the workweek. So we're offering some Saturday morning activities.

Here is an opportunity for everyone to attend a Saturday morning program. Get a head start on your education hours. Enjoy coffee, sweets, conversation and learning. The program will be held at the UW-Extension office, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd.

"Digging Deeper" represents how we will be led into the internet by a pair of MGVs with credentials.

Judy Williamson, our SEWMG webmaster, will show how nearly everything you want to know about our organization is at your fingertips. *When's the next business meeting or educational program? Where are those gardens – or projects – at which I can earn*

volunteer hours? Who is the contact? Where are those forms?

Judy Savage, a Plant Health Advisor who is adept at locating information, will show the rest of us how to access the often unknown research-based horticulture resources. We will learn how to hone our searches to get reliable information and some "tricks of the trade."

Judy and Judy will welcome your questions.

We held a Saturday morning program earlier this year to an over-capacity crowd. This fall, we're limiting registrations to 75 people. The program is free, but please register with Janet (jwintersberger@wi.rr.com) by November 15th.

Thanks to the Kay Costello, Noel Fortier, Fred Redlinger and Janet Wintersberger for offering this program.

"Digging Deeper" will be held at the UW-Extension office, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd. on Saturday, November 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Attendance is limited to 75 people, so please register with Janet (see article for link) by November 15th.

Volunteer & Education Report by Nancy Lehrner

This is the time of year we all seem to get busy with holiday preparations. If you have time, however, there are a few opportunities of which you can take advantage.

Why not consider the monthly Brown Bag Programs? **The program has changed recently.** They are offered as online audio files **only**. They will be posted sometime before the end of each month. To be notified when they are posted, please subscribe to the Brown Bag listserv. To do this, go to the Brown Bag Website (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/brownbag/>) and follow the link under "More Information" on the right side of the page.

The topics previously posted have been cancelled so watch for updates via e-mails or on the SEWMG web site calendar and the monthly phone calendar (414 256-4666).

Please note all Brown Bag programs are available for **free** on audio-line. Go to: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/brownbag/>

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 MGCV calendar. Staying in the know just got easier.

SEWMG Gift Adds to Boerner's Beauty

This fall, Boerner Botanical Gardens was able to landscape its rainwater harvesting demonstration project, thanks to a gift from SEWMG.

The demonstration project, a naturalistic tumbling streambed, collects and filters water from Boerner's parking lot. The collected water can be used for irrigating the gardens. The project, installed in 2009, was the result of a grant from Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District with participation from Reinders and Aquascapes. Although the project was a great way to show people in our area an attractive way to preserve water quality, it needed some landscaping to create a pleasing destination in the gardens.

That was where SEWMG entered the picture, giving the gardens a \$3,000 gift in 2011 to purchase plants. Gardens Director Shirley Dommer Walczak used the gift to buy a wide variety of perennials, trees and shrubs specified in the landscape plan created by Jim Drzewiecki of Ginkgo Leaf Studio in Milwaukee. The plants came from Northwind Perennial Farm, W. & E. Radtke, Johnson's Nursery and Beaver Creek Nursery. Boerner's horticulturist-in-charge Dave Wanninger was especially

You can also go to the iTunes store and subscribe to the Wisconsin Brown Bag podcasts. They will then download automatically each month.

November 2011

🌀 **November 19th - Educational Program – "Digging Deeper"** - 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Milwaukee County Extension. Read the "Special Saturday Educational Program" on page 3 and check the SEWMG web site or the calendar for more information.

December 2011

🌀 **December 14th - Annual Meeting and Holiday Party** - Details and a registration form are on pages 10 and 11. Help is always needed at the registration table.

Nancy Lehrner, MG Volunteer Coordinator



Brown Bag Program has changed recently. They are offered as online audio files only.



pleased to obtain three very special pine trees, *Pinus ayacahuite x strobus* 'Forest Sky', from his former employer, Beaver Creek Nursery.

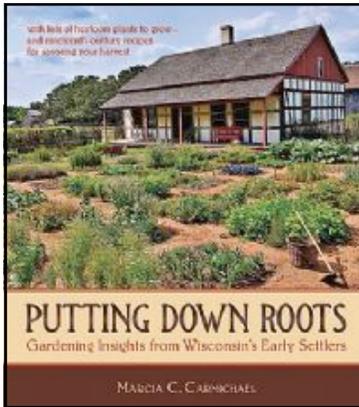
"Forest Sky Mexican white pine is a personal favorite. The soft, blue-green needles, moderate size and even, pyramidal form make it a great evergreen tree for the garden and landscape," Dave says. This year, Eagle Scout Eric Frank installed a rain garden at the end of the rainwater harvesting project to help catch additional runoff. Eric's troop, #501, installed the plants, which were also purchased using SEWMG's gift.

"It's wonderful that this generous gift can beautify the rain harvest area," Dave says. "We were also able to add some great new trees and shrubs to our collection."

"Thanks to this gift from SEWMG, we were able to create a new destination in the gardens," says Shirley. "Thank you so much for making this possible!"



Putting Down Roots



Marcia Carmichael, Author Historical Gardener, Old World Wisconsin

Putting Down Roots is a fascinating heirloom feast for today's cooks, gardeners, and food history buffs.

Tuesday, November 1, 2011
7:00 pm
Sweet Table & Beverages
\$10

(proceeds to benefit Old World WI & North Point Light House gardens)

Talk counts for SEWMG Education hours
Space is limited – Please send a check for \$10 payable to North Point Lighthouse Friends to hold your space!

North Point Lighthouse

2650 N. Wahl Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53211

Phone: (414) 332-6754

keeper@northpointlighthouse.org



SEWMG Dates to Remember

Here is a brief rundown of the various meetings, Extension classes and deadlines for the next two months. Come and see what is happening.

November 2 at 1:00 p.m. Specialty Training at Boerner Botanic Garden. Preregistration required.

November 9 at 9:30 a.m. SEWMG Business Meeting at Milwaukee UWEX office.

November 10 at 1:00 p.m. Specialty Training at Boerner Botanic Garden. Note this is a Thursday. Preregistration required.

November 12 at 9:30 a.m. Budget Preview Meeting at Milwaukee UWEX office. See article page 7.

November 19 at 9:30 a.m. Digging Deeper Special Educational Program. See article page 3.

December 1 Newsletter Deadline

December 14 at 6:00 p.m. SEWMG Holiday Party at Meyers Family Restaurant. See article page 10.



Huerta: Jóvenes para Siempre - Thank you

Here is a thank you letter we received from *Huerta: Jóvenes para Siempre* (Forever Young) gardening program.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous support of the *Huerta: Jóvenes para Siempre* (Forever Young) gardening program. We recently had our Harvest Celebration and would like to provide you with a report of some of the program highlights:

- ⊗ 25 Hispanic seniors participated
 - ⊗ Participants were from diverse backgrounds. Countries of origin include Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Puerto Rico
 - ⊗ Some had previous gardening experience; others had none
- ⊗ Horticultural education was provided by the University of Wisconsin-Extension
 - ⊗ Some of the topics included: how to prepare the land; best plants for Midwest climate; how to weed and prune; how to tell when ripe/when to pick; watering techniques; use of ergonomic gardening tools and methods
- ⊗ Over 650 pounds of produce were harvested
 - ⊗ Produce included: tomatoes, tomatillos, chili peppers, bell peppers, onions, potatoes, green beans, carrots, spinach, zucchini, cucumbers, lettuces, and herbs

- ⊗ Nutrition education was provided by the University of Wisconsin-Extension
 - ⊗ Some of the topics included: recommended intake of fruits and vegetables; nutritional value of whole grain vs. processed foods; importance of fiber; how to prepare vegetables; nutritional balance in meal planning; how to flavor with spices instead of salt
- ⊗ Healthy recipes using the produce grown were provided to the participants
 - ⊗ Participants were taught to prepare a meal using the produce grown for the Harvest Celebration. This was a way to reinforce the teaching done throughout the program, focusing on fresh vegetables, low-fat cooking, and increased fiber

Your kind donation of funding provided bus transportation for the seniors, most of whom do not drive, as well as ergonomic gardening tools and supplies. This program would not have been possible without your generosity! Please extend our sincere appreciation to the rest of your members.

With gratitude,
 Martha Viscuso Saúl Juárez-Aguilar
 Health Promoter Health Promoter Program Advisor



2012 Budget Preview Meeting

The Finance Committee is working diligently behind the scenes to develop the 2012 budget. As announced in the January-February 2011 edition of "Good Earth News," SEWMG will begin "...a new financial plan" in which we will be limited in our spending to the amount generated by our annual plant sale. In planning for this structured budget, we have recommended that a set amount be put aside 'in reserve' as non-spendable. This amount will sustain us in the event of a plant sale catastrophe."

We will "...need to adjust the amounts we are spending, giving preference to our gardens and projects and to sustaining our organization. Any donations thereafter will be evaluated by the Finance Committee, approved by the Board of Directors, and voted on at the next annual meeting." This year's annual meeting/holiday party is on **Wednesday, December 14th**.

The Finance Committee is not at the point of limiting our 2012 Budget to Plant Sale proceeds but proceed-

ing to downscale our Budget to eventually meet that goal. Garden chairs, project chairs and committee chairs will need to carefully track their expenses to avoid overspending. The Finance Committee and SEWMG Board must approve any anticipated overages before the funds are spent.

Master Gardener Volunteers will have a chance to preview the budget on **Saturday, November 12th at 9:30 a.m.** at the UW-Extension Milwaukee office, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road. Please note: the date has changed to accommodate those MGVs attending Rotary Garden's Fall Symposium on November 5th.

Committee members are Dan Cummings, Kris Jensen, Sandy Manning, Fred Redlinger and Janet Wintersberger. Our current treasurer, Joy Towell, and secretary, Mary Redlinger are non-voting members of the committee.

Ruth Marshall
 Finance Committee Chair



On the Table: The Curious Home of Gary Allen

A wreck of Hesperus

Friday, June 4, 2010

In 1968, James Lipton (yes, *that* [James Lipton](#)) published *An Exaltation of Larks*, an utterly delightful collection of terms of venery -- that is, the words used to describe groups of animals (such as "a pride of lions," "a gaggle of geese," or "a murder of crows"). He also included a set of what we might call venereal puns, supposedly uttered by several professors upon noticing a group of prostitutes. One called them "a jam of tarts," another, "an essay of Trollope's," another, "an anthology of prose," and yet another, "a flourish of strumpets." Lipton continued in a similar vein -- but such pleasures should be reserved for people who still read actual books.

Putting such illuminating diversions aside, my wife Karen and I were wondering why there are so *many* collective terms for members of the animal kingdom, yet so *few* for plants. There are only a few, so we (and various friends and relatives we managed to rope in) set out to even the score a bit.

Here are some of our new-found terms of venery:

A joy of Almonds

A flight of Aspidistra (with apologies to George Orwell)

A flatulence of Beans

A tintinnabulation of Bellflowers

A liberal of Bleedinghearts

An oleo of Bluebonnets

A ramekin of Buttercups

A flutter of Butterflybushes

A wedding of Cannas

A chest of Cedars

A bowl of Cherry Blossoms

A cliché of Chestnuts

A flick of Chickweed

An eddy of Currants

A dalliance of Dahlias

A duke of Daisies

A leash of Dogwoods

A nodding of Elders

A roberta of Flax

A reminder of Forget-Me-Nots

A wrath of Grapes

An alpert of Herbs

A wreck of Hesperus (with apologies to Longfellow)

A wetnurse of Honeysuckles

A luego of Hosta

A haste of Impatiens

A jennifer of Junipers

A chewing of Kudzu

A silence of Lamb's Ears

A stan of Laurels

A gilding of Lilies

A harry of Limes (*with apologies to Graham Greene*)

A plague of Locusts

An osculation of Mistletoe

A mar of Mallows

A fluff of Marshmallows

A cowl of Monkshood

An echo of Narcissi

A greg of Nettles

A compliance of Obedience Plants

A harlot of Painted Ferns

A greasing of Palms

A nancy of Pansies

A ream of Paperwhites

A crime of Passionflowers

A gallery of Peanuts

A urinal of Pecans

A shepherd of Phlox

A rash of Poison Ivy

A mommy of Poppies

A murmur of Rhubarbs

A war of Roses

A rasputin of Russian Sage

A roe of Shadblows

A titillation of Teasels

A best (or worst) of Thymes

A pursing of Tulips

A betty of Veronicas

A shyness of Wallflowers

A coven of Witch Hazels

And last, but not least:

A removal of Worts

Disclaimer

The author (and his accomplices) are quick to point out that any perceived slurs, of any kind whatsoever, are purely unintentional. We trust that no offense will be taken by any fruit, vegetable or weed whose name appears here. Besides, we are mystified as to the manner in which such scurrilous phrases have managed to find their way onto these august pages.

This is a sample from Gary Allen's blog and was brought to our attention by Dawn Truit MGVS to read more go to <http://justserved.onthetable.us/>



All for the Love of Roses by Diane Thieme, MGV

I blame it on my mother. She could grow anything, and every inch of our yard was planted with something. Raspberries for sauce and cookie fillings, strawberries for shortcake, rhubarb for kuchen, apples for sour green apple pie, and flower after flower just for the beauty and love of them! At a young age, I began adding to that garden by giving my mother a rose bush for every Mother's Day. I had fallen in love with a massive, heavenly scented, pink, shrub rose in the neighbor's yard and decided we deserved roses, too. So it began.

When I bought my own home on Milwaukee's east side, the first thing I planted was a pink tea rose. It had incredibly fragrant, huge, deep pink flowers. I never noted its name. It has survived 27 winters. It has been joined by over 100 others, but remains my favorite rose. I still don't know its name after all these years!

I am not a rosarian. I don't show roses and I am not an expert. I just love roses! People often picture roses as the long-stemmed beauties in the florist's cooler. Those are more the exception than the norm for roses in our area. Growing roses in Southeastern Wisconsin offers an incredible array of possibilities. Our roses come in every color from purest white to deepest black red (no blues, however). Some are bi-colored; some are multi-colored, and some change colors. Roses can have no fragrance or delicate to intoxicatingly strong fragrance. The fragrance can be fruity, musky, spicy, licorice-like, old damask, and many other scents. Roses come in all sizes, from 6 inches tall to over 20 feet tall or wide. You can grow them as ground covers, ramblers, climbers, shrubs, or bushes. They can be specimen plants, privacy screens, natural fences, or cutting gardens. Some have thorns; some don't. Some have 5 petals; some have over 100 petals. Some bloom once per season; some bloom prolifically all season. Some have one flower per stem, and some have a dozen per stem. Some are winter hardy, and some are fragile in our zone. Some are disease resistant and others are disease magnets. The American Rose Society has developed a 1-10 rating system for roses that considers qualities of vigor, disease resistance, flower form, and bloom repeat. A score of 7 or better is desirable. It is a reliable source to help with selection of plants.

There are some general care rules of thumb for growing roses in Wisconsin. Six to eight hours of sun

is a must for almost all roses. They also need a couple of inches of water per week with good drainage. The preferred way to water is with soakers. If you overhead water, it should be done in the morning so that the plant is dry by evening. Two inches of mulch will help retain the moisture. Cocoa bean shells with rice hulls are commonly used as mulch. Roses also like to be fed regularly. There are rose specific slow release fertilizers that many growers use. Regular application of Miracle-Gro, Magnum Grow, or Peters is also a common choice. About a cup of Epsom salts per plant in May and July is appreciated. Fish emulsion can be applied about once a month. Growers often develop their own "special blend" and feeding sequences. Regular deadheading will also encourage steady blooms from June until a hard frost.

There are many diseases and pests that can attack roses. The most common diseases are powdery mildew, black spot and rust. Preventative spraying every 2-3 weeks with a fungicide will usually control these. Also, giving roses adequate spacing of about 3 feet will allow the plants to breathe and helps control fungus growth. Once infected, a more aggressive spraying regimen is necessary. The most common pests to attack roses are aphids, thrips, and, of course, the hideous Japanese beetles. Control methods vary but usually involve insecticides.

Many roses are grafted onto rootstock. These roses must be planted with the graft below ground level. In our climate, roses must also have some sort of protection for the winter. Some growers will dig all dormant roses up, bury them in trenches, and replant them in spring. Some cover plants with rose cones, burlap, or cages filled with leaves or mulch. Protection is a personal preference. I have heard success stories and horror stories of massive losses using each of the methods. However, there are many winter hardy roses. Generally, shrubs, ground cover, climbers, and ramblers do well. Some growers wrap these in burlap. I use cones on my tea and floribunda roses but do nothing to protect my other roses. In fact, I am generally lazy and don't pamper my roses. I don't water, spray or feed as often as I should, but the roses keep blooming. Each spring, the neighbors wait patiently for the rose cones to come off, signaling the end of winter. The first cone to come off covers my pink mystery rose!



Mystery rose

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



Wednesday December 14, 2011
 Meyers Family Restaurant
 76th Street and Coldspring Road
 Greenfield, Wisconsin



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



Limited to the first 200 people to register

\$10 per MGV

You may bring 1 guest for additional \$10 fee.



Make check payable to:
Hunger Task Force

OR

Food Pantry of Waukesha County

Your check will be returned at the door --- or you can choose to leave it as a donation to the respective food pantry.

Your Holiday Party Reservation will be accepted only if your 2011 Volunteer Hours have been submitted and your 2012 dues have been paid.

Holiday Party Reservation

RSVP by December 5, 2011

You may bring your registration to Specialty Training

Or

Mail to

Patty Witt

16508 W. Melody Ct

New Berlin, WI 53151-9243

___ Yes My 2011 Volunteer Hours have been submitted.

___ Yes My 2012 SEWMG Dues have been paid.

___ Dues are Included. Make Payable to SEWMG.

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
- Center Cut Roast Pork Tenderloin
- Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
- Sage Dressing Chef's Vegetable of the Day
- Cranberry Sauce
- Chef's Special Dessert
- And Coffee, Tea or Milk

Milwaukee County UW-Extension
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/>

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UWEX Milwaukee County Office

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

UWEX Waukesha County 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.