



President's Corner

by Diane Thieme

August finds our gardens in full bloom, and our carefully tended fruits and vegetables beginning to bear the fruits of our labor. Those, oh so tasty, jams, jellies, pickles and canned goods will start to fill pantry shelves for many MGVs. And, nothing beats the taste of a real vine ripened tomato! Much of the hard work is done, and it is time to start to appreciate the beauty of the summer season.

August also has our many sponsored gardens and projects in full swing, showcasing the incredible talents and services our organization presents to Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. State Fair is one of our major showcases and event each year. Thousands of visitors will view the demonstration backyard gardens, get research based answers to their gardening questions take home reliable literature, and experience demonstrations of tools and techniques for life-long gardening. The fair is where I first learned of the master gardener program, and I am sure that that will be the case for many of this year's visitors. Thank you to the many volunteers who work each day of the fair!

August brings another annual MGV event, the celebratory membership picnic. Every SEWMGV,

including trainees, is invited to this delightful evening of camaraderie, laughter, fun, and great food. Hot entrees and all beverages will be provided. Appetizers, salads, side dishes, and desserts are pot luck. So, pull out your best recipe and start cooking. It is common knowledge that MGVs always put out a fabulous spread! I guarantee that your taste buds will be delighted. Join the gathering, fun and games, and feast on August 21st at Mitchell Park Pavilion in Brookfield (down the road from the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center). Appetizers and drinks will start at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. I hope to see you all there.

A few business matters also need to be addressed. First, the implementation of the weekly volunteer work schedule e-mail has been extremely well received by the membership. We have heard from many of you that you love the ease of

finding needed hours information. We have cut the number of e-mails considerably and have made valuable volunteer information readily available to all. Thank you to the chair people for sending Candy Krepel your work hours each Wednesday. And, a huge thank you goes to Candy for compiling the information and sending it out to the ListServe. Chairs, please make it a habit to send hours to Candy every Wednesday.

Secondly, the "great mulberry saga" brings us to our next challenge. We will be looking into a blog, chat, or another system for questions and answers to be posed without subjecting the entire ListServe to 15 different messages telling us "It is a mulberry." Our plan is to find a method of posting questions and answers to a single site which interested members can visit as often as they choose, while uninterested members will not be subjected to unwanted e-mails. In the mean time, we

need to follow the ListServe guidelines set forth by Sharon Morrisey this spring. Questions and announcements should be posted to the listserv, as usual. *BUT, responses to questions should be off list and*

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Don't forget the Picnic!
 Thursday, August 21
 5:00 p.m. appetizers & drinks
 6:00 p.m. dinner
 Mitchell Park
 19900 River Road
 Brookfield

Please bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share
 Entrees and beverages provided

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- Dues information
- Eble and Zoo Garden volunteers
- Level 1 Training information
- Holiday Party Save the date

President's Corner

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directly to the questioner. Please, do NOT hit "REPLY ALL" to answer someone's question. Once the questioner has adequate responses and answers to the posed question, he/she could, as a courtesy, send a single e-mail to the list with a summary of the responses. "It is a 30-40 foot mulberry tree, the fruit is edible, it reseeds aggressively, it is messy, etc." The result is an answer which can be shared with one e-mail for interested

parties and uninterested parties are not inundated with multiple unwanted messages.

Thirdly, the time for the annual filing of budgets and annual reports is rapidly approaching. All chairs are required to submit both of these documents by September 15th. The Finance Committee and Board need these reports to determine funding for 2015 and to accurately create the budget. Failure to complete the reports may result in loss of funding

for your garden or project. Forms and information are available under the documents section of the website.

Lastly, a new group of trainees (newbies) will soon begin their classes. I hope their tablemates and classmates are as much fun as mine were and continue to be, and that their experiences will only be positive ones!

Enjoy your time in the garden and the remainder of your summer. I hope that you will find some time to sit back and smell the roses.

Holiday Party & Annual Meeting



Wednesday, December 10th, 2014
Alioto's
3041 North Mayfair Road
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
Close to the corner of Highway 100 and
Burleigh Road
6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. Dinner
Annual Meeting to follow dinner
Registration information will be
available in the next newsletter.



2015 Budget Requests and Annual Reports

By MGV Kathie Foti, Finance Committee Chair and Chair of Board of Directors

All 2015 Budget Requests and Annual Reports are due by September 15th.

You can find the forms on the MGV website under "Documents." Please follow the directions on the form and submit forms by the deadline. The Finance Committee will study these requests, and a final review for MGV members will be held in October. It is imperative to remember that once the budget has been finalized by the committee and reviewed by the MGV

members, your budget will be locked in for 2015. It is very important that you submit your requests by the deadline of September 15th to avoid any problems.

Copies of these reports should be sent to:

The Finance Committee
Milwaukee County Extension Office,
Building A
9501 W. Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3552

Please do not include the budget request and annual report with your 2014 timesheet.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Printed copies only, please.

2015 Plant Sale Begins Now!

by MGV Patty Witt for Plant Sale Steering Committee

Starting in September, the dig team for the plant sale will be digging plants and heeling them in at the Eble Veggie garden. If you have plants to share or know of someone who does, please contact Patty Witt at pattywitt8@gmail.com or call 262-797-0719. We'll be happy to tour your yard and identify plants if you aren't sure of what you have. If there is something you want to share, please take

pictures of the plants in bloom and/or foliage. (See examples and the newsletter article "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words") And those plants with pictures always sell better.

Once you have taken pictures, please e-mail them to Patty Witt. Include any information you have about the plant. This will give the committee time to print and laminate the pictures so they are ready for the sale.

Also, please check the SEWMG website <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/perennial-plant-sale/> for a list of 'Desired plant list by category for 2014 Plant Sale' which lists the 'Encouraged' plants and the 'Managed' plants. This will help you decide if you need us to come to your home and dig. The list will remain the same for 2015.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

by MGV Bonnie Paplham

SEWMG relies on our master gardeners, their friends and neighbors for plant material to share at our annual plant sale. Generally perennials need to be divided every three or four years so we often have a built-in source for our product. Providing our extra plants at no cost to SEWMG means there will be a greater profit to fund our many MGV gardens and projects.

So today is the day to take stock of your gardens and decide what you can share with the plant sale. Many perennials are now in full bloom. Enjoy your gardens now - but think ahead to what you might donate to next year's plant sale. Remember that the "dig team" can provide the labor to dig and

divide those garden plants for you.

SEWMG plant labels can only do so much; photographs help sell plants. A picture will answer many customers' questions.

When taking photos, try to take a close up picture of the blooms and/or foliage. The more detailed the picture, the easier it is to sell the plant. A clear photo helps because it gives the customer an opportunity to see the actual plant and its color. A photo also shows whether the flower petal is a single or double variety. Photos of hostas help show the edges, variegation, size and shape of the leaves. These pictures are invaluable

in the case of late springs if the leaves are not open at the time of the dig. A close up photo shows the detail of these plants in their full glory.

So take pictures now, label the plants and mark their locations. Save the descriptions so in spring 2015, that information can be included in the detailed description of the plants you so generously provide. While we often think we'll remember, we often don't.

SEWMG relies on our Annual Plant Sale to help provide financial support to UW Extension, Boerner Botanical Garden, our approved gardens and projects and many other good things. Help make it a success!



Bad hosta photo, too far away no detail.



Good hosta photos, include details.



Close up of flowers help see color and shape.



In-House Education Committee

by MGV Rita Piper, Committee Chair

As summer draws to a close and we work to clean up our gardens, remember that the In-House Education Committee has more exciting educational opportunities this fall. The September and October sessions are confirmed and the November session will be announced via e-mail shortly. An e-mail with the registration link will be sent three to four weeks prior to the program.

Green Roof Basics

**Christopher J. Schultz, CPM,
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage
District, Water Quality Senior Project
Manager**

**September 27th, 2014, 9:30 - 11:00
a.m.**

**Pettit Center, 500 South 84th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53214**

Chris has managed MMSD's Green Roof Initiative since its inception in 2010. The MMSD has provided funding for green roof technology since 2003. To date, the District has provided incentive funding for approximately 10.5 acres of green roof coverage. The District's interest in green roofs is to hold rainwater where it falls, thereby diminishing the risk of sewer overflows and improving the overall water quality.

The presentation will present a brief overview of MMSD's interest in green roofs including a summary of issues to consider when thinking about a green roof, identification of planning resources and a visual tour of highlighted projects supported by MMSD. Chris will also spend a few minutes talking about rain barrels.

**Taking Herbs to the Next Level
Marcia Carmichael, Historical
Gardens Coordinator at Old World
Wisconsin
October 21st, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Brookfield Public Library, 1900 N.
Calhoun Road Brookfield, WI 53005**

Marcia Carmichael is the historical gardens coordinator at Old World Wisconsin where she enjoys designing, creating and nurturing the museum's heritage gardens. Marcia's book, *Putting Down Roots: Gardening Insights from Wisconsin's Early Settlers* has received numerous accolades. Marcia delights in sharing the joys of plants and gardening with everyone she meets.

Marcia will talk about growing herbs, discuss herbal ideas for the holidays and provide recipes using herbs.



Electronic Registration for educational programs

We want to remind you that, due to space limitations, you must register for programs via a surveymonkey link that will be sent one month prior to the program.

How does it work?

1. In the program announcement e-mails, we will insert a surveymonkey link.
2. Click on the link and it will open to the registration survey.
3. Type in your name and e-mail address, then click DONE! It couldn't be easier. You must click DONE in order to complete the registration process.
4. If two people using the same e-mail address are registering, please register both at the same time.

Electronic Registration Frequently Asked Questions

What about those of us without computer access? We realize that there are a handful of MGVs who do not have any computer access. **MGVs without computers can still register by telephone** by calling Judy Williamson at 262-691-9391.

What if I forget that I registered? When you register, please write on your calendar "registered for the program." Doing so will avoid duplicate registrations. We will also send a confirmation e-mail a week before the program.

What if the program is full? We will start a waiting list and alert you that you have been placed on the list.

2014 Leadership Committee by MGV Kris Jensen, Chair

The 2014 Leadership Committee (Kris Jensen, Kay Costello, Patty Witt, and Pat Adrian) is seeking candidates for 2015 Board of Directors and Officer positions. Open positions include President-Elect, Secretary, 1st Year Director (of a 3-year term) and two Directors-at-large. We are especially in

need of candidates for President-Elect and Secretary.

If you would like to learn more about the duties and responsibilities associated with these positions, or to suggest possible candidates or volunteer yourself, please talk with

one of the committee members. We are all listed in the SEWMG directory if you prefer phone or email contact, and we will be out and about at SEWMG functions and meetings and will be happy to talk with you there.

Dues News

by *MGV Patty Witt, Membership Chair*

I hope you had an enjoyable summer. It is now time to do the paperwork associated with SEWMG, as most items are due by September 15th, 2014. Your membership dues are not due in to the state until November 1st, but since you're doing your volunteer hours, why not get it all finished and submit your 2015 dues as well.

I've attached the form for 2015 for your convenience. You can also download it from our website, fill it in and print it out. *Then mail it to the PO Box address listed on the form.* The website is <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents/>. Scroll down to 'Forms for Our Treasurer' and select the 'Dues Application - 2015' and complete the form for mailing.

Thank you all for taking care of this at your earliest convenience

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics/displays | <input type="checkbox"/> Finances/accounting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching/education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project management | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative/support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event planning | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

It's the time of year again to collect your volunteer hours, any budget requests for garden projects, and your dues for 2015.

Turn Leaves into Treasures *by Pat Roberts, Certified Master Composter*

"The falling leaves drift by the window, the autumn leaves of red and gold..." touching lyrics to a beautiful song. For those of us having to clean those leaves up in the fall, those leaves become far less romantic than the lyrics indicate. We need to stand back, however, and visualize those piles of red and gold as being literally gold for our gardens.

As your leaves drift from the sky, visualize them as dollar bills, money you will save as leaves are free to use as soil amendment in your gardens, as mulch for garden beds, as winter lawn protection, and as a source of nutrients in your compost bin.



Soil amendment. By tilling or hoeing in a 2-inch thick layer of *chopped* leaves into your soil at a depth of 6-8 inches, you will be improving your soil's structure and richness. It is important that they be chopped, as whole leaves are more difficult to till into soil and they decompose more

slowly. Chopping can be easily and quickly done by running a lawn mower over them. This may have to be done a few times over the leaves to get the size desired. Fall is the perfect time to amend garden beds so they will be in excellent condition for spring planting. As leaves are not high in soluble salt, you do not need to be concerned with plants getting burned.

Mulching. One of the first jobs gardeners tackle in the spring after cleaning beds is planting and mulching. Commercial mulches, while helping to retain moisture, discouraging the growth of weeds, and keeping soil cool, can be costly. Leaves, on the other hand, are not only abundant but also free. If chopped leaves are bagged and saved through the winter, they can be placed as any other mulch, at least 2 inches deep, after the soil has warmed. In the fall, this type of mulch can be tilled into the soil at the end of the growing season.

Winter Lawn Protection. If leaves are ground finely enough and used sparingly, they can help protect your lawn from the damage that winter can create. Make sure that you are not cutting your lawn too short, however, in trying to make the grinding process easier. A lawn that is too short does not handle hard freezes well.

Composting. Your compost bin is the perfect place to bank your gold!

Leaves provide the nutrients and carbon that a good compost bin needs, as long as you don't get heavy-handed with them and thus bank too many. Leaves should make up one-third of the total materials in your bin. Whole leaves can be put into the bin, but they will take longer to break down. Adding some soil and turning the pile once a month will help in the breakdown of the leaves and other compost material. It will take at least six months for a compost bin with leaves added to it to break down into a perfect soil amendment. Including manure will speed that process.

Enjoy fall and the bounty it brings. Consider your leaves, not as a nuisance that must be dealt with before winter, but as an abundance of wealth!

Resources:

Johnson, Holly. Solid Waste Processing Specialist. SCHWEC (www4.uwm.edu/schwec/publications/cabinet/cc)

Department of Natural Resources. (dnr.wi.gov)

State Fair 2014 *by MGV Faouzi Kablaoui, Committee Chair*

Thanks to all who helped make this event successful.

There were forty five volunteers at orientation this year.

Of all the volunteers that signed up only four did not show up for their shift. With three shifts a day and four or five volunteers to a shift.

We estimate 82,800 visitors based on a 5 minute count every hour. This is the

highest number of visitors we have had using this method. According to State Fair reports, this year broke records, their total is 1,030,881, the best day was August 9th with 136,740 visitors. We had 5784 visitors on that day alone.

This year we distributed a few less brochures. With Butterfly Habitat gardening, Gardening Resource, Building a Hardy Cactus Garden, and Composting taking the lead.

In general the weather was very good this year generating many more visitors. The butterfly garden was full of color and butterflies encouraging people to stop and ask questions. Many of the questions were about vegetable gardens and our life long tools display. Our benches as always were a nice place to rest

Thank you again for all your service for the eleven day run of the fair

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

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

Fall Level 1 Training.

This annual, beginner MGV training course will again be offered September through December for 13 weeks starting September 4th at Boerner Botanical Gardens and September 8th in Waukesha. Training will be held on Mondays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Waukesha County Courthouse and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Boerner Botanical Gardens.

If you know people interested in taking the class but missed the deadline for registering this year, tell them to call and leave a message at (414) 256-4661. They should provide their name, address, phone and e-mail. They will receive an e-mail next summer letting them know when registration begins.

A Great State Fair

Another State Fair is behind us and everyone should be proud of the work you did there. Faouzi's report quantifies it. We also need to recognize the quality brought to it by our new Garden Chair, Nancy Dubyk. In every detail she strove for perfection and her dedication showed.

There will be a meeting in September to evaluate successes and make some future plans. Your opinions are important so watch for the meeting announcement. Nancy needs more helpers, too. Remember, this is our premier venue for the whole year. It deserves everyone's attention!

Speaking of Fairs

The Milwaukee County Fair is our next big public event. On the weekend of September 26th - 28th we need the help of MGVs to set-up and staff the D.I.Y. Fruits display, to answer gardening questions and to give informal presentations and demonstrations. Be thinking of topics you can present or gardening related demonstrations you can perform.



Again this year the Kohlrabi Festival will be developed through the creative quirkiness of Milw. Co. UWEX Urban Ag program director, Dennis Lukaszewski. This sometimes silly, sometimes serious contribution of UW-Extension is just educational enough and just crazy enough to draw crowds of young and old alike. Watch for a call for volunteers.

2014 Volunteer and Continuing Ed Hours Due Sept. 15th

This will be the second year of the new, computerized timesheets. Send or bring timesheets to the Milwaukee County UWEX, 9501 W Watertown Plank Rd, Bldg. A, Wauwatosa, WI 53226. No e-mailed timesheets will be accepted.

All documents related to service and education hours can be found at: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents/>. If you need help, e-mail MGV Susan McDonell at sdmcdonell@mac.com. Tell her what you are having problems with and she will get back to you.

Recruiting New MGVs for Projects

Presenting your MGV project through an e-mail ListServe message can be an effective method of recruiting and welcoming new MGVs. Write a brief description of your project, where it's located, what volunteers do there, days of the week for workdays, other times they can volunteer there and contact information for them to find out more. We can also use this information to start a directory of SEWVG Volunteer Activities. Remember to invite them to your fall clean-ups and events. New MGVs should be on the ListServe within 2 weeks or so of the beginning of Level 1 Training.

UWEX Hort Center at Boerner Closes for the Season

The plant diagnostic season at the UWEX Hort Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park ends on September 30th. Thanks for staffing the Center since May 1st go to Judy Savage, Linda Stehman, Sonia Harsch, Carol Vondrell, Linda Schubert, Maria Johnson, Jim Thomas, Jack Williams, Bob Balderson and Rainey Barr. For tallying the numbers of calls and visitors and topics inquired about, thanks to Rose Hill. MGV Ilze Balodis-Larson has volunteered again this year as the Center Coordinator and is greatly appreciated by us all.



Volunteer Opportunity Fair

Save the date of Saturday, January 17th 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. for the 2015 Volunteer Opportunity Fair. The Fair's objective is to show new MGVs what volunteer projects we have and to inform all MGVs about the volunteer projects we do. The Fair will again be combined with an educational speaker. More information in the next newsletter.

Construction Update

The misery of construction is due to ease up a little bit soon. Through traffic on Watertown Plank should resume soon. Then the off ramps will open one at a time. Next the on ramps. The project's completion date is set for sometime in December if they are on schedule. Watch for periodic e-mails notifying you of changes that should start to make it easier "to get here from there".

Budget requests for 2015 must be submitted to the finance committee by September 15th. All garden projects must complete and submit their Garden Annual Reports by that date also.

First Lily Leaf Beetles in WI

This native of Europe and Asia was first documented in the US in 1992 having come in on a shipment of lilies from Europe. With no natural enemies in North America, this new pest poses a



threat to both cultivated and native lilies.

Asiatic, Oriental, Easter, Turk's cap

and tiger lilies are hosts along with fritillaria, bittersweet, hollyhock, lily of the valley, Solomon's seal, and potato. Daylilies are NOT hosts. The WI cases are within a 15 mile radius of Marathon County.

Larvae are large, black and slug-like while adults are black and red beetles. Direct inquiries or report discoveries to the Horticulture Help Line in your county.



Japanese Beetle Populations Low

With a few notable exceptions, there were very few Japanese beetles this summer. Reportedly that was true for most of Wisconsin. Not that anyone's complaining!

UW Insect Diagnostic Lab entomologist, P.J. Leisch says his colleagues around the region are speculating this was due to a combination of poor conditions for egg laying during the drought of 2012 and the exceptionally deep frost in the winter of 2013 - 2014. No one is guessing about 2015 yet.

Tar Spot Not

For the last 3 years, seemingly every Norway maple in town and a few other maple species as well were severely spotted with the black, ugly blotches of tar spot. Plant pathologists have known for years that the severity of this leaf spot fungus is usually a

function of spring weather conditions. In general, leaf spot fungi require a very specific set of conditions of temperature, specified periods at a certain leaf wetness and a particular leaf tissue penetrability in order to infect and thrive. That explanation seemed logical to most people the first year but the second and third years made it seem like a true epidemic that was here to stay. This year's decrease in spotting should reassure people that this was just a temporary flare up.

Tomato Late Blight in Milwaukee County

Only the second confirmed case of late blight in the state and only the first on tomato was confirmed by UW and DATCP in Milwaukee County on July

29th. Gardeners chose to either begin a protective fungicide program of sprays every 5 - 7 days or to take their chances of total crop failure. From infection to total crop meltdown takes a brief 7 - 10 days. Once infected, plants need to be destroyed so the spores do not continue to spread. Final reports will be available sometime after the first hard frost in late October. If your tomatoes were victims of this disease, DO NOT COMPOST the plant debris. Bag them and dispose of in your household trash or bury it 4" deep. Burying shallowly prevents spores from spreading this season yet allows freezing overwinter which kills the spores. Destroy all volunteer seedlings next year, too.

Spotted Wing Drosophila

This nasty fruit fly attacks fruits, especially raspberries and was reported to have had a population that survived the winter in WI in 2013 - 14. Many infestations were reported around the state during the 2014 growing season. Detecting an infestation is difficult and may not occur until fruit has been picked and stored when newly hatched larvae are discovered (yuk).

When picking raspberries, use 2 receptacles - one for the good fruit and the other for all overripe or

damaged ones. Do not drop these on the ground or leave them on the plant to attract adult females searching for sites to lay their eggs. If you suspect SWD on your property, please contact the Horticulture Help Line and collect samples of fruit and any adult fruit flies.

The Dwarf Apple Tree Disaster of 2014

Groggily wandering around to find a spot to shoot a segment in the Green Thumb Garden at Fox 6 on the morning of Monday, July 7th, something just felt wrong. Over there, at the northwest corner of the garden it seemed too light, too open to the sky. And the ground seemed too bushy. Then it clicked, the dwarf Enterprise apple tree that had grown so full and lush and round was down for the count. Investigation showed it had cleanly snapped off at ground level. The graft union had failed.

Finally, I put the puzzle pieces together. As a dwarf fruit tree, the graft union was inherently weak. That's why our publication "Growing Apples in Wisconsin" recommended and we had complied with placing a very sturdy, permanent stake close to the trunk at the time of planting. The tree was firmly tied to the stake with webbing so as not to damage the bark and the webbing tied with thick wire. What I had not noticed is that the wire had rusted through and the webbing had fallen off - probably only a week or so earlier.

I do intend to replant, I think. The challenge is the rather large diameter stump and root system to remove. Maybe I can find a MGV to take on that challenge next spring.



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 September 10th right after the MGV Business Meeting. This will be held at the Waukesha County Courthouse.

Garden Visits. Members of the committee have visited the following approved gardens in July 2014: Fox 6 Green Thumb Garden, Kneeland - Walker Gardens Wauwatosa Historical Society, State Fair Model Backyard DNR Park at State Fair Park, Eble Park Gardens, Historic Dousman Stagecoach Inn Brookfield, Linden Grove Health Care Center Relaxation Garden, Pewaukee Public Library Rain Garden and Town Hall Library in North Lake.

At least two members of the GSC visited each garden.

The purpose of these garden visits was to answer any questions and provide information on resources available to assist each garden to meet the standards of a UW Extension project. This is the third year in the cycle of visiting each of the approved gardens once every three years. We will repeat this cycle again starting in 2016.

2015 Public Garden Tours. At our last GSC meeting in June Susan Ratkowski, agreed to head up a sub-committee to plan and coordinate tours of several approved gardens and/or approved youth gardens. This was last done in 2012 and was a successful event. If Susan 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.

Save the Date. The 2015 Volunteer Opportunity Fair will be held on Saturday January 17th, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. MGVs will have a chance to learn about all the gardens and projects that need volunteers. Please save the date for this event. More information to follow 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.

Volunteer & Education Opportunities

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

The 2014 Level 1 Training class will start September 4th at Boerner Botanical Garden and September 8th at Waukesha County Courthouse. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new MGVs in-training. You will enjoy 13 weeks of lectures, garden sharing and fun! Best wishes to everyone.

Our MGVs have been busy in July and August:

- ⊗ July and August - Wisconsin State Fair: Nancy Dubyk volunteered as chair of the gardens this year. MGVs planted, weeded, watered and spread mulch to prepare the Model Back Yard for the State Fair. Faouzi Kablaoui coordinated the volunteers for the 10 day run of the fair. Thank you to all volunteers.
- ⊗ August 14th - 17th Zoo Ala Carte, MGVs will staff the Butterfly garden and the Heritage garden during this event.
- ⊗ August 29th - Senior Celebration at

the Zoo MGVs will staff the Butterfly garden and the Heritage garden.

Volunteer Opportunities for September and October:

- ⊗ September 6th -7th - Family Farm Days at the Zoo, volunteers are needed.
 - ⊗ September 26th, 27th and 28th - Milwaukee County Fair volunteers needed.
- SEWMG Educational Opportunities for September and October:**
- ⊗ September 10th - Plant Health Update 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. MCCE office in the dining room.
 - ⊗ September 13th - MGV Dan Cummings will present "Saving Tomato Seeds" at the Delafield Library. *You can count presentations given by a fellow MGV as Continuing Education hours.
 - ⊗ September 24th - Plant Health Update 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. MCCE office in the dining room.

⊗ September 27th - SEWMG Educational Program, topic - Roof Top Basics

9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Speaker Christopher J. Schultz CPM Water Quality Senior Project Manager, MMSD Pettit National Ice Center, 500 S. 84th St, Milwaukee, WI 53214 Registration information will be posted when available.

- ⊗ October 21st - SEWMG Educational Program Topic – Herbs 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Speaker Marcia Carmichael Brookfield Library, 1900 West Calhoun Road, Brookfield, Wisconsin Registration information will be posted when available.

Other Dates of Note:

September 15th - **HOURS DUE:** 24 hours of Volunteer service, 10 hours of Continuing education hours and your certificate of completion for the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse are due today.

Butterfly Habitat Garden @ the Milwaukee Co. Zoo

by MGVs John Kastl, Ruta Goba and Kris Jensen

Greetings to the manifold gardening vanguards that make up SEWMGV, Inc.

So what the heck is up with the MGVs at the Zoo? Simple answer, we participate in the UWExtension's public outreach by answering questions and distributing handouts to the Zoo visitors who venture into our Butterfly Habitat project.

Our prime message to the public is simple: **If you are a Butterfly Gardener - please stop - and become a Butterfly HABITAT Gardener.** Why? Well, sure, pretty butterflies and pretty flowers are nice to look at. But, you don't get the pretty butterflies unless there is a habitat consisting of perhaps less desirable looking "Larval" host plants for butterflies to lay eggs on, for the caterpillars to eat, and to create a neighborhood of plants for the

chrysalis to hang around in. And then you also get to do your Butterfly Gardening to get your pretty flower plants for the Butterflies to nectar on. When we explain the need for Habitat gardening and the person you are speaking to begins to get the point of it and nod their head in an understanding way we feel our mission is being accomplished.

In our demonstration project, we have planted and tend about 115 plants for the public to see and appreciate. There are host plants such as Big and Little Bluestem (Skippers), Milkweeds (Monarchs), Parsley, Dill, and Fennel (Black Swallowtails), Pearly Everlasting (American Ladies), and nectar plants such as Joe Pye Weed, New England Aster, Purple Coneflower, and the list goes on and on.

We participate in various Zoo Special Event Days such as Party For The Planet, Military Appreciation Day Zoofari Nights, Zoo Ala Carte, Senior Day, and Family Farm Weekend. At these events our volunteers set up our shade tent and set out a display of books and information pamphlets. A big hit is our live display of butterfly eggs, caterpillars, chrysalis, and, when the timing is right, we even have a few butterflies for the children (of all ages) to release. So many thanks are owed to the few volunteers who make this all possible.

It's very satisfying to volunteer at a project when a 12 year old girl takes home a handout on raising butterflies and comes back the next year and proudly tells you "I followed the directions in your handout and I raised 10 Monarchs this year." Volunteering is pretty neat, isn't it!



Heritage Garden @ the Milwaukee Co. Zoo

by MGV Susan McGrath

The Heritage Garden located in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm is a vegetable garden presenting distinct ethnic groups. Four garden beds demonstrate traditional crops, reminding everyone of their rich cultural diversity. Each year, the plant selection and garden layout changes. Recipes are available for ethnic dishes.

Zoo Ala Carte is our next big event (August 14th - August 17th). Tours and extension publications will be given by MGVs. We also staff Senior Celebration (August 29th) and Family Farm Weekend (September 6th and 7th).

The Heritage garden contains a selection of back yard fruits, including

trees and berries. Built into a hillside, there is a rock garden filled with perennials. Another feature is the fencing. Each vegetable bed uses a different style of fencing to keep out small critters. Peacocks and chipmunks are always a challenge - it's a Zoo.

Eble Park Flower/Herb Garden

by proud MGV Jane DeMeyer

Yes, it's a public park! On the north side of Bluemound Road in Brookfield, the gardens of Eble Park provide an oasis from the traffic and commerce of a busy highway. The 1987 donation by the Eble family to Waukesha County provides thirty-three acres of green space where families can enjoy the Eble Park Ice Arena and gardens tended by Master Garden Volunteers. Though the aging 1896 farmhouse was removed last year, and the barn built in 1936 will be removed this summer, the gardens remain for public

enjoyment.

Within the white picket fence, visitors can find three herb beds - kitchen, beverage, and pioneer - and a butterfly garden. Roses and clematis climb the arbor entrance. A variety of perennials and annuals border three sides of the herb garden. Peony beds line the driveway. A northeast flower bed features more shade-tolerant plants. Several other flower beds around two fieldstone outbuildings showcase experiments in native

plants, grasses, perennials, and newly developed annuals. A 4-H group is growing roses.

The newly expanded vegetable garden behind the garage provides copious amounts of fresh vegetables each year for the Waukesha Food Pantry. As the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use continues to develop this gem of a park, more visitors will find a restful spot in a beautiful setting, and master garden volunteers can be proud of their contribution.



Eble Park Vegetable Garden by MGV Marie McGinnis

Last year we harvested 1,916 pounds of veggies and every pound went to the Waukesha Food Pantry. Fresh vegetables are very popular at the pantry and for the health of the community. More people are interested in where their food comes

from and how it's grown. We do not use any non-organic sprays on our produce. We work after 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday evening and Saturday mornings after 8:00 a.m. beginning in August.





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Grow with us

Check out our website

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Our Mission Statement

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