President's Corner
by Pat Adrian

Heading toward the dog days of August is always bittersweet! All the promise of spring has morphed into the reality of over-ambition. Despite my best intentions, the weeds triumph in some areas; the deer continue to relish the daylily buds and tomato plants just before I get a chance to enjoy either; rabbits find ways to eat the green bean and beet seedlings as they begin to show real growth. On the other hand, my garden maps and plant inventory spreadsheets are up-to-date; I continue to keep track of my bloom times; I am taking pictures of the plants I plan to donate to the 2016 Plant Sale; I have had vases of flowers around my house every week.

Did you know that SEWMG continues outreach activities during summer and fall? SEWMG volunteers staff a booth at State Fair, answering thousands of questions, demonstrating horticulture best practices, showcasing our collection of ergonomic gardening tools, and recruiting Master Gardener trainees for fall classes. Beginning in September, these classes will train our next “generation” of gardening advocates. We thank all of those State Fair volunteers. Who knows how many new horticulture efforts are undertaken based on your encouragement?

The Annual SEWMG Picnic will be held at Brookfield’s Mitchell Park Pavilion down the road from the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center on Thursday, August 20th from 5 to 9 p.m. Entrees and drinks will be provided. But it’s your creativity that will make things interesting. Bring a dish to pass that will knock our socks off! Even that bag of chips is appreciated! There will be a plant exchange, as well. Please choose an extra special plant from your gardens to share with a fellow Master Gardener. All SEWMG members are invited to join in the fun!

Our next two monthly business meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. on August 12th at Boerner and on September 9th at the Waukesha County Courthouse. Please come and join in issue discussions and in providing feedback on SEWMG activities.

Finally, two critical dates are coming up:
- September 1st is the deadline for submitting expense reimbursements for any SEWMG-related purchases made during January to August, 2015
- September 15th is the deadline for submitting your community service and education hours
- September 15th is also the deadline for Garden Chairs to submit their annual reports for 2015 and submit budget requests for 2016

Remember that September and October are the busy months for our Treasurer and Board Members as they finalize financial matters for 2015 and establish the 2016 budget. We approve the 2016 budget at our December Holiday Party/Business Meeting.

Have a great summer, everyone!
President, Patricia Adrian

Highlights inside this issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Trip behind the Scenes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-House Education Committee</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking Ahead to 2016 Plant Sale</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kris Jensen Memorial</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quote of the day:
“Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes.” (Author Unknown; as seen on poster at www.gardentherapy.com)
Bus Trips - Behind the Scenes
by Pat Adrian, SEWMG President

SEWMG provides many opportunities for Master Gardener volunteers to gather. Some involve a lot of work like Pot-A-Thon and our community gardens; some are educational such as lectures, or UW-Extension Plant Help-Lines and some are just plain fun like the Annual Picnic or the Holiday Party! The bus trips combine all three aspects as participants enjoy a fun day with like-minded gardeners and learn a lot!

I never realized how much preparation goes into the enjoyable bus trips, and I’ll bet most of you didn’t either! Here’s how it all comes together:

- **Idea Phase** – The committee scouts out potential tour opportunities based on suggestions, personal experience, research, etc. This usually happens during the summer and fall of the year prior to the actual trip.
- **Investigation Phase** – The committee members phone and/or visit to determine whether a SEWMG garden tour is viable. Questions they ask include number of guests, the admission cost; availability of “tour guide”; handicap accessibility; and open dates. They contact restaurants to determine menus and capacity.
- **Lock-down Phase** – The committee determines and books the tour date and bus for that date. A bus for a summer tour in 2016 needs to be established in November of 2015. Buses are very difficult to acquire at the last minute. The committee also makes restaurant reservations and confirms the menu.
- **Tour Preparation** – The committee crafts invitation/registration announcements; sends announcements of registration date and protocol; maintains tour registration records as well as a waiting list; confirms registration; receives payment from participants.; sends reminders, if necessary; confirms the tour logistics with the gardens, restaurants and bus company. Cindy makes bus treats!!! Last minute cancellations are filled with people on the waiting list.
- **Tour Day** – The committee members are the “hosts” of the tour. They have contact information in case a bus is late; they arrive early at the bus stop, monitor registrants, and collect payments, if necessary. They keep the participants together during the tour and pass on facility information.
- **Post-Tour Evaluation** – The committee considers the tour experience, evaluates feedback from participants and uses “Lessons Learned” to make any changes for the following year’s trips.

This process was developed based on certain assumptions:

- Trip participants pay the full cost of the trip/tour. A single bus for 55 is booked.
- Trip cost maximum is targeted to the $42-$47 per person range.
- Registration is first-come, first-served.
- Financial commitment of participants is made in advance of the trip.
- A waiting list is kept as plans can change at the last minute.
- SEWMG members can bring a guest for varied reasons. This is also the policy at our other “fun” events such as the Holiday Party and Annual Picnic.
- Most gardens that are visited by SEWMG bus trips are also open to the public.

Feel free to share ideas that you have to improve the Trips/Tours experience. Send your ideas via e-mail to Pat Adrian (patadrian@sbcglobal.net). The Trips/Tours Committee has changed its processes over the years based on your suggestions. Trips are now on Friday, instead of mid-week; registration used to begin at the Business Meeting, but was changed to e-mail/phone. Both changes allow more equal access for all Master Gardeners. Your input makes a difference!

Credit for these trips goes to the “Trips and Tours” Committee: Doris Fons, Sharon Roy and Cindy Lese. Thanks to the three of you for providing so many travel opportunities to SEWMG volunteers over the years!

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**Annual Picnic**

Thursday, August 21st
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

Guests are welcome!
In-House Education Committee
by MGV Rita Piper, In-House Education Committee Chair

We trust that you used your summer for working in your own gardens and earning your MVG hours in the SEWMG projects. This fall, we are offering three more opportunities to earn your education hours including fall gardening, monarchs and houseplants. We hope that you join us!

Upcoming Programs

September
Fall Gardening-Preparing for Winter and Improvements for Next Year’s Garden
Patti Nagai, Ph.D. - Horticulture Educator for Racine County UW-Ext.

Thursday, September 10th, 2015 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Boerner Botanical Gardens

Gardeners tend to be perfectionists and visionaries, but then a hefty dose of reality sets in once the garden season begins. Plans, designs, glorious catalog photos, and exciting new plants attract us, and we race to gather and plant in the spring. As the season progresses and Mother Nature rains us out, dries up our dreams, or sends swarms of insects, diseases, or some new invasive plant our way, gardening can be tiring. It is easy to get a little disenchanted. Fall is the best time to plan for the coming year and, for many plants, the best time to plant them. Fall is the season for gardeners to take a critical, loving look at their gardens and decide what changes can be made for a beautiful and healthy garden for next year. Patti will review traditional fall gardening tasks and share with us new ways of evaluating and improving our yard and garden areas.

November
Caring for Houseplants
Heidi Hornung, Landscape Architect and Retail Manager of Shady Lane Greenhouses

Saturday, November 14th, 2015 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Shady Lane Greenhouses, W172 N7388 Shady Lane, Menomonee Falls

Heidi will talk to us about houseplants. We will be at the greenhouses and will be able to see many plant varieties. She will discuss types of houseplants and their care, how to overwinter plants that have been outdoors, and ideas for houseplants for the holidays. She is an engaging speaker who has presented to our group several times in the past. Heidi was born into the business and started working at the greenhouse when she was 10 or 11 years old. Her father, Karl, has been a big influence on her career choice, but her grandmother’s garden in Germany was another inspiration.

In lieu of charging a speaker’s fee, Heidi has asked that those attending the presentation bring five nonperishable food items that will be donated to Hunger Task Force.

The registration links for these programs will be sent out one month prior to the event.

October
Plight of the Monarchs
Jim Price-Friends of the Monarch Trail, Wauwatosa

Thursday, October 22nd, 2015 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, Wisconsin

Jim will speak about the plight of the monarch butterfly, why it’s endangered and what we can do to increase their dwindling numbers. Find out what native plants can be used in your landscape to provide a welcoming habitat for monarchs, other butterflies and pollinators.
Garden Support Committee Update
by MGVs Patty Witt & Ken Loeffel, Garden Support Committee Co-Chairs

“The mission of the Garden Support Committee of the SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners is to provide support and guidance to all approved gardens/projects to ensure the Garden Chairs implement the expectations of the U W Extension Master Gardener Program”.

Approved June 10, 2015

We always welcome MGVs to join us at our GSC meetings. Our next meeting on Wednesday September 9, 2015 right after the MGV Business Meeting about 10:45 a.m. This will be held at the Waukesha County Courthouse. We will begin planning for the Volunteer Opportunity Fair to be held Saturday January 23, 2016.

We will again meet on Wednesday October 14, 2015 right after the MGV Business Meeting about 10:45 a.m. at Boerner Botanical Gardens Education Building. Please join at this meeting as we will continue planning the Volunteer Opportunity Fair to be held January 23, 2016. We will also begin reviewing which approved gardens we will visit in 2016 and begin planning for the Garden Chair Forum to be held on Tuesday March 15, 2016.

We will provide more details in the next newsletter.

2015 Public Garden Tours
Visits to four approved gardens for Public Garden Tours were held on Saturday August 8, 2015, after the deadline for this issue of the newsletter. The next issue of the newsletter will include an article regarding these tours.

Garden Support Committee Goals
Now that the mission statement has been approved, the GSC is in the process of preparing a Goals Statement. More information on this in future newsletter articles.

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

Looking Ahead to the 2016 Plant Sale
by MGV Bonnie Papliham

What do you plan to donate to the 2016 SEWMG Plant Sale? How about garden phlox, asters, garden mums, tall sedum (other than Autumn Joy) which will bloom later this summer? If you do not know the name of the daylily, lily, or other plants, take pictures. Also record the height of the plant and when it blooms. Take a close up picture of the blooms. Customers want to see the detail of the individual plant, not the entire flower bed.

Take a good picture of the hostas to show the leaves. Variegated hostas sell very well. Measure the length and width of the leaves. The size of the leaf determines the category of the hosta (mini, small, medium, large, or giant). What color are the blooms? When does the plant bloom? One of the comments that Master Gardeners made about improving the sale was to have pictures of each plant.

Please do not guess the name of the plant. There are so many daylilies or hostas that are similar. We want to be as accurate as possible. It is better to have a good picture and an accurate description than to give the plant the wrong name. I will keep the photos in a file so that you do not have to submit the same photo in a future sale.

Remember, if you are donating an iris or daylily and you only know the color, not the name of the cultivar, you must provide a photo.

Enjoy the summer and all of the upcoming Garden Walks and Tours. Maybe you will get some ideas for some new plants.

One last thought, if you are buying new plants, don’t throw away the plant tags. You may want to donate part of that plant someday and you will need the information from the tag.
Kris Jensen Memorial Tree & Garden with Stone Marker

by MGV Kit Hansen

A serviceberry tree and garden with a stone marker in memory of Kris Jensen, Master Gardener, was dedicated at the Lowell Damon House Historic Garden on July 15th. Guests included MGVs who had donated to Kris’ memorial fund and Kris’ partners Larry Andersen and Robin Brent.

Cheryl Rasmann, Lowell Damon House Historic Garden co-chair, read a tribute to Kris detailing Kris’ many accomplishments as a Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardener.

Kris was SEWMG president in 2013, chair of the Lowell Damon House Historic Garden and co-chair of the Zoo Butterfly Habitat Garden. Kris had also been very involved with the annual Plant Sale. Kris and Ruth Marshall created SEWMGs tool and equipment inventory base.

Most of all, Kris was a teacher, mentor and friend to many of us.

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Kris Jensen Memorial

by Pat Adrian, SEWMG President

On Wednesday, July 15th I attended the Kris Jensen memorial dedication at the Lowell Damon house in Wauwatosa. This home is believed to be the oldest residence in Wauwatosa, built from 1844 to 1847. Only a few years ago the grounds were difficult to navigate, with all of the buckthorn and other invasives taking root during years of neglect. Kris spearheaded the efforts to restore the gardens to what they might have been during the mid-1800’s, and she encouraged other SEWMG volunteers to contribute their efforts. Today, the colorful, welcoming yard is shady and cool even on a warm day.

On that evening, it was full of Kris’ friends, conversing and appreciating her contributions to our communities. Garden Chairs Kit Hansen and Cheryl Rasmann hosted the event, bringing appetizers, beverages, and flowers Cheryl composed and presented a touching memorial tribute to Kris. A serviceberry tree (Kris’ choice) had been planted and one of the original rocks on the property was engraved with Kris’ name, complemented with iris and butterfly images.

If you’ve never visited this SEWMG garden, please make it a point to stop in and enjoy this “gift” from Kris and all of the Lowell Damon Garden volunteers. You’ll see the low stone retaining wall that Cheryl is single-handedly rebuilding. She dug the original stones out of layers of soil and received a donation of stone to complete the wall. You will see the inviting herb garden where B. J. Larus, a new Master Gardener Volunteer, performs her community service work. Lynda Barbiere, who brought a beautiful flower bouquet, often tends the shade garden. In all, fourteen people from SEWMG and other historical society groups have worked to bring back a mid-1800’s garden back to life for your enjoyment and appreciation. Stop by any time!
Website Looks Different
The SEWMG website appearance has been changed by the UW-Extension administration to conform to all of the other UWEX websites. The choice of pages is along the top now instead of down the left-hand side. It all works the same and the content is all there. The most disappointing part of it is that the lovely daffodil photo is gone. Oh, well, change is constant in life.

Timesheet Help
Confused about the proper place to record your Plant Sale hours or your In-Garden Weeding time at Boerner B.G.? Worse yet, can’t even get the timesheet off the website? MGV Susan McDonell has agreed to be our timesheet support person again this year. E-mail her about what you need at sdmcodonell@mac.com.

Volunteer Timesheets Are Due September 15th
Mail to: Milwaukee County UW-Extension
9501 W Watertown Plank Rd, Bldg A
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3552.
Thanks for all of your service this year!

Short a Couple Hours?
One of the easiest ways to get those last few volunteer hours done is to look at the Garden Work Day Schedule sent weekly by MGV Candy Krepel and then picking a garden project to work at. It can be near your home or just some place you’ve always wanted to see. There’s always plenty to do. You can contact the garden project chairperson if you want but it is not necessary. Contact person’s are listed with the gardens on the Volunteer page of the SEWMG website.

Continuing Education Hours
Borrowing class session DVDs from past classes is a great way to get your last couple of continuing education hours. Sessions are generally 2.5 hours long. They are kept at the Milwaukee County UWEX office. Call to check the hours of the reception desk staff on the day you want to come pick one up (414-256-4600).

State Fair
As I write this, State Fair has just begun. MGV Faouzi Kabloufi officially filled all of the shifts by the first Friday and got tickets to everyone. All the other work leading up to State Fair was being done over the entire spring and summer by our current chairperson for the exhibit, MGV Nancy Dubyk.

Over the last year and a half, Nancy has evaluated, implemented and coordinated many significant changes. She has recruited people to undertake several important facets of the appearance and operation of the exhibit (including her husband Bob). The sign for the shed got a facelift with bright new colors. Several newly constructed, safer Aldo Leopold benches were stained a lovely shade of green which distinguishes them from the brown DNR ones. She has found better ways to do several things such as labelling the plants and doing the butterfly garden signage. She gave the shade garden a “shot in the arm” with new hostas and coral bells and caladiums and fuchsia.

A new layer of whimsy and kid-friendliness were added by MGV Lorrie Clarey. The Plants with Animal Names scavenger hunt was her doing. In addition, she decorated the benches and staged pots of bee and butterfly plants with the yellow bows. Thanks to Faouzi and Nancy and all of her helpers.

Milwaukee Office Parking Beginning August 21st, “our” part of the parking lot will be inaccessible. Our front entry sidewalk, too. If you must come to our office for something, check our website http://milwaukee.uwex.edu before coming to figure out the route, where to park and what door to enter. By the end of September we will be so happy with the new lot and sidewalk that we will quickly forget how inconvenient it was.

Don’t Forget:
~ September 1st Deadline for Garden & Project Chairs to submit expenses
~ September 15th Volunteer Timesheet & Educational Hours due (see website)
~ September 15th Budget requests for 2016 due (see website) and Annual Reports due (see website)
~ November 1st MGV & WIMGA dues deadline (see page 8)
Moratorium on Garden Projects Will Continue

The current moratorium on accepting new garden projects will continue indefinitely due the large variety and number of garden projects that MGVs already have as volunteer options. We do know that occasionally a new opportunity may arise. If that is the case, Sharon Morrissey and Ann Wied will evaluate any potential new garden project on a case by case basis taking into consideration the visibility of UW-Extension it will provide, the educational value of the garden, the strength of the partnership, if it has public access, and what kind of SEWMG support will be needed.

In addition, we will continue our policy that all youth gardens and youth garden projects do not need to be approved. All hours spent with youth gardening and youth garden projects count toward the volunteer requirement. If your youth garden is not listed on the website and you would like to see it listed there, contact Ann or Sharon.

Iris Dividing Demonstration

by MGV Marlene Jaglinski

Ted Haasch did a demo on dividing iris and their care at the North Point Lighthouse, Friday, August 7th. Nine Master Gardeners attended and took home the extra iris. One iris bed at the lighthouse was refurbished with their help.

Changes at Good Earth News

by MGV Sandy Manning, Co-Editor

Sometimes change is good! My old computer finally decided that editing a newsletter and running the embroidery module for my sewing machine was too much work. In comes a brash new purple laptop to take its place. New challenges then became apparent, no Word and no Publisher. I have been using Google docs for awhile so that solved the no Word part, but Google does not have a design and layout module. On to the internet and Scribus came up as one of the best free layout software programs around. This is the first newsletter in this software. Watch this space for new formats as I figure them out.
Hi to all you Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteers. I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer and have taken time to do something memorable and fun.

The Master Gardener’s year is coming to an end, as our volunteer hours are due by mid-September. Hopefully everyone has had ample opportunities to get AT LEAST 24 hours in. It is also time to pay your annual dues for 2016. The dues are $10.00 and are due by November 1st. Make checks payable to SEWMG and mail the check along with the attached Membership Dues Application to Patty Witt at the address listed on the form.

If you don’t pay your dues, you have no say or voting rights in what SEWMG does during the coming year. You also won’t be invited to attend the Holiday party or the Friday night plant sale just for members.

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**University of Wisconsin-Extension**  
**SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners**  
**2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Name (First, Last): ___________________________________________

Home Address: ________________________________________________

City: _______________ State: ___________ Zip: _______________

Home Phone: ________________ Cell Phone: _________________

Email Address: ______________________________________________

PLEASE SHARE YOUR SKILLS, SPECIAL TALENTS, OR INTERESTS:

☐ Graphics/Displays ☐ Finances/Accounting ☐ Other (list below):

☐ Computer Skills ☐ Teaching/Education

☐ Project Management ☐ Administrative/Support

☐ Event Planning ☐ Writing/Editing

SEWMG Dues is $10.00 Per Year and  
Includes Membership Dues for WIMGA

Please make check payable to SEWMG and mail to:  
Patty Witt  
16508 West Melody Court  
New Berlin, WI 53151-9243

DUES ARE PAYABLE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2015
Contact Information

For more information:

Calendar Hotline (MGV Hotline) 414-256-4666
On the Web http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/
Sharon Morrisey (Consumer Hort. Agent, Milwaukee) 414-256-4660; sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex.edu
Ann Wied (Consumer Hort. Educator, Waukesha) 262-548-7788; ann.wied@ces.uwex.edu
Betsy Vokac (Program Assistant) 414-256-4600; elizabeth.vokac@ces.uwex.edu
Nancy Lehrer (Volunteer Coordinator) 414-256-4661, nancy.lehrer@ces.uwex.edu
Milwaukee County Cooperative Extension Office 9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd. Building A, Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Waukesha County Cooperative Extension Office Waukesha County Administration Center,
515 W. Moreland Road, Room AC-G22, Waukesha, WI 53188

Our Mission Statement

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