Volume 19, Issue 1
Jan/Feb 2019

Good Earth News

South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners

Family Affairs

by Editors of the Good Earth News

An editor traveled to Boerner Botanical Gardens to learn more about the students in the Master Gardener training class. This chapter and the chapters in upcoming editions features their thoughts.

Chapter 1:
Many of us remember our first gardening influences. The in-training group cited many ways people influenced their decisions to become a master gardener. Among those identified were grandparents and parents.

Mary Caye Smith recalled that her grandparents had an acre property in Wauwatosa that was filled with vegetables along with apple, pear and cherry trees and red and black raspberry bushes. When Mary Caye was fifteen, she worked for her grandma and "fell in love with gardening."

Chris Olson lived in a cement-surrounded city lot with no garden at all. When she went to her gramma's house, there was an "actual yard with grass, flowers and an apple tree." The two of them would walk along the fence line and observe the plantings as they changed throughout the seasons. Those memories of gardening have remained with Chris as she works today in her own gardens.

Danielle Glick stated, "My Nana's garden was always my happy place and I want to grow a tranquil area like she had."

Robin Recknagel's grandmother "inspired me. She has flower and vegetable gardens and I would l help her every year from start to finish."

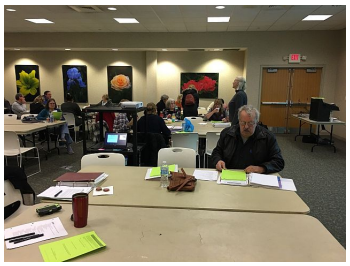
Beth Peterson recalled, "My grandmother had beautiful gardens which inspired me as I was growing up." After Beth's father retired, he began gardening in earnest and Beth watched his grow-light efforts to jump start plants during the winter for his summer gardens.

Leia Ferrari's parents and grandparents inspired her gardening ideas and friends "who are involved in urban agriculture" influenced her enrollment in the training program.

Peg Sklander's parents were also inspirational to her gardening endeavors. Sally Hoyt recalled helping "my parents with the yard work and gardening."

It seems that there may be a grandparent/parent modeling influence on many of our trainees. Or maybe it's just in all our genes.

*Chapter 2: in the **Good Earth News** March-April edition.*



Inside this Issue

News from the County Office Page 2
Meet the Board Page 3
Level 2 & Level 3 Training Page 7
In-House Education Page 8

News from the County Extension Office

by Ann Wied, UW-Extension Waukesha County Consumer Horticulture Educator

Volunteer Recognition at Holiday Party
The SEWMG Holiday Party, Annual Meeting, and Volunteer Recognition was held on December 5. We hope everyone had a wonderful time.

At the event, a short volunteer recognition program was held to acknowledge and thank everyone for the hours volunteered to the Master Gardener program. Congratulations again to all our MGVs who reached significant milestones in cumulative volunteer hours. Four MGVs received special awards. Ann Phillips has volunteered 5,000 hours. John Kastl, Bonnie Paplham, and Linda Stehman all have volunteered 2,500 hours. I appreciate everyone who has volunteered his or her time in 2018!

I am grateful for each and every hour all of you volunteer! I realize some of you have more time to give than others. THANK YOU!

Update on Filling Sharon's Horticulture Position
Sharon's horticulture position will look a bit different as we continue to move further into the UW-Extension reorganization process. There will be two horticulture positions both serving Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties. One position will be a Horticulture Program Coordinator who will focus primarily on the MG program. I will work closely with this person as we co-coordinate the Milwaukee/Waukesha (SEWMG) program (much as Sharon and I did before). This person will also coordinate the Racine/Kenosha County MG Program. Home base will be the Milwaukee County UW-Extension office but some hours each week will be spent in the Kenosha County UW-Extension office.
Sharon's other duties have been split off and made into another position - Horticulture Outreach Specialist who will also work in three counties - Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine. Home base will be the Kenosha County UW-Extension office but some hours each week will be spent in the Milwaukee County UW-Extension office.

Both these positions were posted in late November. The goal is to have preliminary interviews before the holidays in December with final interviews in January. If you have any questions about these positions, please contact me.

New Milwaukee County UW-Extension Director Hired
Jennifer Abel will begin January 7, 2019, as the new full-time Extension Director for the Milwaukee County UW-Extension office. Tedi Winnett will stay on as Interim Extension Director until January 18 to train and orient Jennifer in her new role.

MG Graduation Will Be Held on Saturday, February 2
Graduation for those who participated in Level One Training in fall of 2017 and who have completed all requirements to become certified will take place on Saturday, February 2 at 10:30 a.m. This date may sound familiar to you. This is also the date for the SEWMG Volunteer Opportunity Fair. The Volunteer Opportunity Fair will be held from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. Graduation will be at 10:30 a.m. A SEWMG Educational Program will start at 11:00 a.m. All these events will take place at Boerner Botanical Gardens. All graduates will receive an e-mail from me with most of this information as well as some specific details for the day. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Waukesha County UW-Extension 2019 Budget Update
On November 13, the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors approved the 2019 County Budget with a 24 to 1 vote. Paul Farrow, Waukesha County Executive signed the budget into law on November 16. Waukesha County UW-Extension received $346,763 in county tax levy for the 2019 budget year. This was the same amount as our office received in 2018.

Milwaukee County UW-Extension 2019 Budget Update
The 2019 Milwaukee County Budget passed with continued level funding for Milwaukee County UW-Extension. A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who contacted your county board supervisor or attended the budget hearings in support of UW-Extension. Your voices are important and do make a difference! We greatly appreciate your support!!

Save the Date
February 2, 2019
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9:00 - 10:15 a.m. - Volunteer Opportunity Fair
10:30 a.m. – Graduation for 2017 certified trainees
11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. – In-House Education Program

Meet the 2019 SEWMG Board

by MGV Janet Wintersberger

As Master Gardener Volunteers, you are familiar with training offered through the UW Extension, the In-House Education programs offered through our local association, the Annual Plant Sale, our gardens and projects, and the many ways you can volunteer.

You may not be familiar with how SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, Inc. works. Each year, several volunteers accept leadership roles. They help guide the organization and ensure its activities and finances are on track throughout the year.

Our officers include the President, President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman of the Board, second- year board member, first-year board member and two board members at-large. They were recently elected at the annual meeting in December.

President.	Jennifer Lazewski
President-Elect	David Heeren
Treasurer	Lawrence Paplham
Secretary	Bernita Hile
Chairman of the Board/ Finance Committee Chair	Janet Wintersberger
Second-year board member	Kathy Mintner
First-year board member	Mary Wolverton
Board member-at large	Ann Loper
Board member at-large	Susan McDonell

According to our bylaws, any certified SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardener may serve for up to three consecutive years. Some roles require a three-year commitment. For example, the President-Elect becomes President during his/her second year and then Past President in the third year. The Past President then heads the Leadership Committee to recruit incoming candidates.

Once the first-year board member completes a year, he/she becomes the second-year member and advances to be the third-year board member. With the knowledge gained over his/her three-year term, he/she becomes the Chairman of the Board and Finance Committee Chair.

SEWMG also encourages its Treasurer to remain in his/her position for three years because of the organizational knowledge acquired in his/her role.

You will have a chance to meet many of the officers this year. Many of them volunteer in our approved gardens, at the plant sale, and/or on committees and they attend educational programs and more social events.

Why did these volunteers choose to serve?

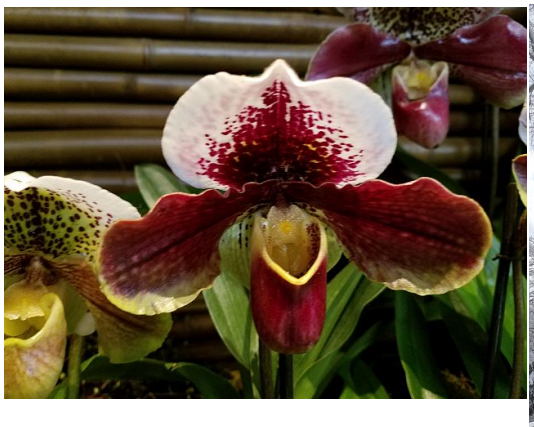
"Serving on the board has also helped me to meet people involved in various committees to determine where I might want to volunteer my time. My experience has been that it is often difficult for non-profits to find people willing to take on leadership rolls. If I believe in the mission of the organization and I can participate, I feel I have a duty to step forward."

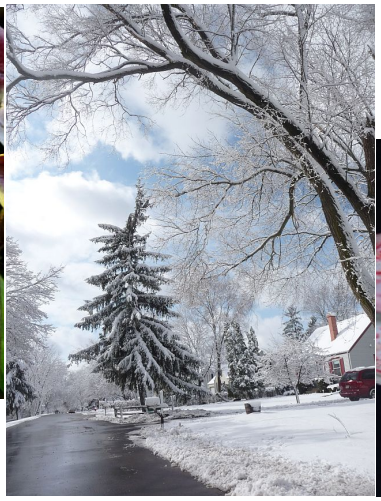
"I want to share my skills in an organization I genuinely believe in."

What are the benefits?

"I have learned more about the organization, and have been able to influence, in a small way, its direction."

"It has opened my eyes to a different side of the SEWMG organization, which helps make sense of things. I'm excited to be part of future changes."





Wehr Nature Center Update

by Ann Wied, UW-Extension Waukesha County Consumer Horticulture Educator

Did you know that Milwaukee County's Wehr Nature Center is connected to UW-Extension? Well, it is! UW-Extension is a partner organization and several staff at Wehr Nature Center are UW-Extension employees. If you stop by Wehr, you will notice that changes are happening at the nature center. Exciting renovations have begun. Although the building is closed for renovations and our Extension colleagues are temporarily located at Boerner Botanical Gardens, the hiking trails remain open. Programming will continue. Be sure to check out its website for winter programs: https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Parks/Explore/Wehr-Nature-Center or visit their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/wehrnaturecenter/ If you have never been there, it is a great place to visit!

Laurie Baker, Seasonal Photography Contributor

by MGV Ann Weronke

I met Laurie at a garden shop where we both worked. I noticed that Laurie was very careful to show and tell people how to water and trim plants. She was "teaching" people how to care for their purchases. I also learned she was a master gardener and I was inspired to take the master gardener training class because of her. I know that Laurie also inspired a current participant in the level one training program, Margie Lowe.

Through the years, Laurie has shared photographs she has taken. I have convinced her to create a portfolio of seasonal photos to be used within the **Good Earth News**. Please enjoy these additions in the upcoming editions. And thank Laurie when you see her.

Service Enterprise Initiative Update

by MGV Diane Thieme

About three years ago, UW Extension Milwaukee County embarked on a Service Enterprise Initiative (SEI). An SEI review is intended to identify strengths and weaknesses of volunteer organizations, so that both volunteers and the community in which they work are well served. Based on our review findings, a 40-step action plan was developed to address the needs of the UW Extension SouthEast Wisconsin's Master Gardener volunteer program. Here is an update on SEI continuing efforts.

The Service Enterprise Initiative committee's current work is focused on completing the final part of its UW Extension/SEWMG action plan. Most of the action plan has been implemented or is an ongoing process. The last major focus is the development of a SEWMG handbook. This handbook will be an overview of the program and structure from the state level to the local level. Once completed, the SEWMG handbook will go to training-class students and will be posted online for current MGVs.

Included in the SEWMG handbook will be sections on the history, purpose, and structure of the UW Extension Master Gardener program; MGV program requirements and documents; SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardener history, mission, and structure; SEWMG volunteer job descriptions and opportunities; links to state MGV and SEWMG member policies and requirements; netiquette; and logo use expectations.

Work is on hold until the new Milwaukee Extension Director can be brought up to date with the total action plan and SEWMG handbook. The handbook is to be reviewed by Mike Maddox prior to release.

SEWMG Educational Display Team Has Been Busy

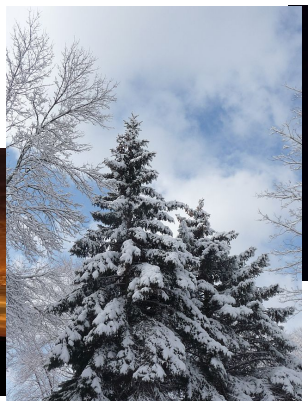
by MGV Laura Herzog, UWEX SEWMG Volunteer Coordinator

Our SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardener display team has been busy updating our displays. Together we are creating a library of "Grab & Go" displays that will be listed on our SEWMG website. They will be available to check out and take to events and farmer's markets. We currently have 11 display boards in portfolio cases ready for check-out at the Milwaukee County UW-Extension office. We have several larger displays that will be stored at Boerner. We will set up a schedule to have these on display on the lower level as you walk down the stairs. Look for them next time you visit Boerner!

Each "Grab & Go" display will have a theme. Some may have some interchangeable display components. For example, for the Invasive Plant Display, there will be choices of Buckthorn, Wild Parsnip, Giant Hogweed and Queen Anne's lace. You will be able to pick how many you would like featured when you set up the display board. There will also be handouts to accompany each display.

We would like to make more new displays and also update others that still need updating. We could use some help (at our Milwaukee County UWEX office). We need help with searching research-based gardening websites, electronically manipulating the images and information, identifying public domain photos, adjusting photo size, crediting the sources, and printing the information. We would also like to compile a binder with appropriate hand-outs to accompany all displays. Contact me (laura.herzog@ces.uwex.edu) if you are interested in volunteering.

I would like to thank our display team, Judi Price, Mary Hughes, Gen Miresse and Kristie Kroening for their work and continued dedication to improve our resources.



The President's Corner

by MGV Jennifer Lazewski

Happy New Year! I am excited about the coming year and all its possibilities. This year has been challenging in some ways with departures, delays and the University merger; however, we have much to look forward to in the next. We are part of a vibrant, volunteer, service group that works to improve our communities by sharing with others our horticultural and environmental concerns. Each one of you is important to making our mission a success. I hope you will continue your commitment to work with us.

While change brings challenges, it also creates opportunities. We will have chances to provide input and ideas as well as to create a new synergy between MGVs and UW Extension staff in our two counties and the state. It is my hope that we can enjoy learning and growing together.

We need to grow and adapt as things change, just as we do with gardening. This is where each of you is so important. We are working to be more relevant in today's changing world and all parts of our communities. Horticulture includes not just gardens but also natural areas, invasive plants, pollinators, and climate and weather concerns.

Our love of gardening brings us together. Our goal is to help others gain the same sense of joy, belonging and well being that gardening gives us. To learn from what we plant and how it grows; to listen to the buzz of bees; and to taste flavors fresh from the earth.

I invite you to share your talents, your ideas, and your time to help us succeed in the new year.

Lifelong Gardening Committee

by MGV Ann Loper, Committee Chair

Our mission is to educate the public on principles and methods that enable gardeners to enjoy gardening throughout their lifetime. Education is designed to teach: (1) how to modify the garden – accessibility and plant selection and (2) how to modify the gardener – techniques and tools.

The Lifelong Gardening Committee has finished the 2018 season with a "practice run" of our Train the Trainer program for our committee members that we have been working on since winning the Search for Excellence award in 2017. We already have several presentations scheduled for the 2019 season.

The committee looks forward to another exciting, fun-filled year of giving presentations. Stay warm this winter as you plan for the 2019 gardening season.

Future committee meetings are February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Library, Park View Room, 13600 Juneau Blvd, Elm Grove, WI.

SEWMG Monthly Gatherings

by MGV Jennifer Lazewski, President

Based on member discussion comments and past experiences, SEWMG will be changing the format of our monthly gatherings. We hope more of you will be able to attend and consider these programs worth your time and efforts.

Starting in January, every other month will have a project/committee day that has volunteer hour credit opportunities. We will have several rooms reserved in one location with a hospitality room so that we can gather and work together. We plan to do this in the morning on the second Saturday of these months, starting on January 12 at the Boerner Botanical Gardens Education and Visitor Center.

Starting in February, every other month will have a meeting that includes an hour of continuing education such as educational updates, additional volunteer training and other forms of learning. You will also have a chance to hear more about our SEWMG organization. The dates and time for these meetings will be announced on the ListServe once the programming is scheduled.

Please contact Jennifer Lazewski at jenlazewski@gmail.com or (414) 453-4157 if you would like to schedule a room for your committee, project or garden to meet in January or March.

Spring Tour of the Domes

by MGV Doris Fons, Trips and Tours Committee Chair

Join us in March as we venture into the balmy confines of the Mitchell Park Conservatory, the Domes to Milwaukee natives. We will visit this year's train show and get a behind the scenes view of the conservatory. We will meet at the Domes on Friday, March 8 the tour starts at 10:30 and ends at noon. Watch the ListServe for a reminder. Registration will start on Tuesday, January 29. Get rid of the winter blues and join us for this warm preview of the season to come.

Level 2 & Level 3 Training

by Ann Wied, UW-Extension Waukesha County Consumer Horticulture Educator

In case you missed Susan Mahr's November 2018 Master Gardener "Volunteer Vibe," there was an announcement regarding the upcoming statewide Level 3 training. Registration information for Level 3 training is provided ONLY in the monthly "Volunteer Vibe" newsletter e-mailed to certified MGVs. Space is very limited (40 MGVs) and the cost is $40. The class is held on-line. The 2019 Statewide Level 3 Training course title is "Placemaking for Master Gardener Volunteers." Participants will learn how MGV activities, plants and gardening play a critical role in creating a vibrant community while focusing on the scholarship and impact of gardening and beautification projects. Questions about this training should be directed to Program Coordinator Amy Freidig: amy.freidig@ces.uwex.edu . Amy works with Mike Maddox in the State MG program office in Madison.

As you recall, statewide Level 2 training is the "Level 2: Plants Plus" program consisting of online educational modules that MGVs can access year-round to earn continuing education hours. These modules focus on horticultural topics at a more in-depth level than in Level 1 training. You can choose topics based on your interest and you can do them whenever it fits into your schedule. See https://wimastergardener.org/plants-plus/

Historically, we have held our own local Level 2 training in spring of each year for SouthEast Wisconsin MGVs (you). I have no details to share currently. Watch your e-mail for an announcement regarding topic, dates, time, location, and registration information.

Continuing Education
Statewide Level 3 On-line Training for Certified MGVs
"Placemaking for Master Gardener Volunteers"
Space is limited

Statewide "Level 2: Plants Plus" program
On-line Educational Modules
https://wimastergardener.org./plants-plus/

Local Level 2 training
To be announced

2019 Plant Sale Status

by MGV Diane Thieme

The perennial plant sale is held on the third Saturday in May. It is SEWMGs only fundraiser.

The Plant Sale Committee has been dealing with a difficult fall due to circumstances beyond our control. In a typical fall, we would already have 4000-5000 plants heeled in at the Eble Vegetable Garden for the winter. Unfortunately, our requests for adequate space at Eble and other gardens were rejected. Instead of 5000 plants, we have about 800 plants at Eble. Also, the need to search for more planting space meant we could not harvest donor plants until we could find a site with deer fencing, water, vehicle access, and room for a Pot-A-Thon. That site was not found until late fall. By that point, the fall weather had turned cold and rainy which limited the number of days that the dig team could work.

Fortunately, we did eventually find a few MGVs who offered to heel in plants in their personal home gardens. Truly fortunately, Dennis Lukaszewski and the UW Extension Urban Agriculture program staff heard of our plight and came to our rescue. They found an area at Firefly Ridge that they bulldozed, tilled, fenced for deer control and supplied with water. We were able to heel in about 1500 plants before the weather turned bad. We are incredibly grateful and indebted to the Urban Ag staff for supporting our efforts in such a generous fashion.

What does this mean for the plant sale? It means that our plant numbers will probably be significantly down, which means that profits will be negatively impacted. If we have an early and warm spring, we may be able to make up some of the 2000 plus plant deficit. If the spring weather is like the last two years, we can expect a much smaller sale. We have advised the Board of the possible budget implications.

In-House Education Programs

by MGV Rita Piper, Committee Chair

All registration links for In-House-Education programs will be sent via e-mail 3-4 weeks prior to these upcoming programs. You must register to attend the programs, which are open only to SEWMG and MGs in training. There is no cost for the programs and all qualify for continuing education hours.

The In-House Education programs for 2019 will kick off after the Volunteer Fair at Boerner Botanical Gardens on February 2. The educational program begins at 11:00 a.m. Please note that there is no January program, but there will be two February education programs.

February

February 2, 2019 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

"Low Maintenance, Big Impact Landscape Plants"

Melinda Myers

Boerner Botanical Gardens, Upper Level

Ideas for easy care plants that add beauty to your landscape with minimal care. Melinda will discuss annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs that are best suited to the area and its various growing conditions. Plus, she'll share plant combinations that are sure to maximize your garden's beauty and provide enjoyment for years to come!

About Melinda Myers

Gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Small Space Gardening, MN & WI Getting Started Garden Guide and MN & WI Month-by-Month Gardening. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" TV and radio program and The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms and writes a nationally-syndicated gardening column. She hosted "The Plant Doctor" radio show for over 20 years as well as seven seasons of "Great Lakes Gardener" on PBS. In 2017, Myers was inducted into the Hall of Fame of The Association for Garden Communicators. Her website, www.MelindaMyers.com, features gardening videos, audio tips, monthly garden checklists and much more.

Melinda's presentation is sponsored by ATC, American Transmission Company. For more information, please visit, www.atc-growsmart.com

February 16, 2019 10:00-11:30 a.m.

"Perennial Landscaping and New Plants for 2019"

George Radtke, Owner of W.& E. Radtke Nursery in Germantown

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church W196 N9520 Cross View Way, Menomonee Falls, WI

The improvement of plant genetics for today's gardeners is advancing at an ever-increasing rate. Despite a few hiccups along the way, many of the newest perennials are indeed the best of their breed. Perennial breeders have done an amazing job of improving plant habit, disease resistance, and "flower power." George will present many of the newest and best alternatives to old standbys, based on nursery trials and production at W. & E. Radtke Perennial Nursery.

March

March 16, 6:30- 8:00 p.m.

"Southeastern Wisconsin's Wildflower Diversity and Conservation Practices"

Julia Robson, Conservation Biologist, Waukesha County

UW Extension-Milwaukee County, 6737 W. Washington St, West Allis, WI, 53214

From shaded mesic forests carpeted with spring ephemeral wildflowers, to the sprawling warm summer colors of tallgrass prairies, southeastern Wisconsin is a region rich in wildflower diversity. Its unique glacial geology, variety of habitat types, and location within Wisconsin's ecological tension zone have resulted in a landscape containing some of the rarest plant communities and species in the state. Join Waukesha County's Conservation Biologist to learn more about some of these important ecosystems and the species that rely upon them, and what you can do in order to help conserve them.

April

April 11, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

"Rose Hybridization and Trends in the Rose Industry"

Zach Steeno from Will Radler's Gardens

Boerner Botanical Gardens, Lower Level

Demonstration Gardens 2018

by Garden photographers

Here is a brief glimpse of the gardens of 2018 and the many MGVs who made them the wonderful, educational places we all enjoy. Come to the Volunteer Fair to learn more about these spaces and many other volunteer opportunities.

Photos clockwise from top; Kneeland Walker House, Kneeland Walker flower bed, Kneeland Walker volunteers, Franciscan Villa volunteers, Sussex Outreach Services raised beds, and Lowell Damon House volunteers.

Milwaukee County UW-Extension Office

6737 W. Washington St. Suite 2202

West Allis, WI 53214

SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners

Editors:

Sandy Manning | sandymanning@gmail.com

Janet Wintersberger | jwintersberger@wi.rr.com

Ann Weronke | aeweronke@earthlink.net

Laurie Baker | Seasonal Photography

Grow with us

Check out our website

http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg

Contact Information

For more information:

Calendar Hotline (MGV Hotline)	
On the Web	http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/
(Consumer Hort. Agent, Milwaukee)	
Ann Wied (Consumer Hort. Educator, Waukesha)	262-548-7788; ann.wied@ces.uwex.edu
Betsy Vokac (Program Assistant)	414-615-0518 elizabeth.vokac@ces.uwex.edu
Laura Herzog (Volunteer Coordinator)	414-615-0517 laura.herzog@ces.uwex.edu
Milwaukee County UW-Extension Office	6737 W, Washington St. Suite 2202, West Allis, WI 53214
Waukesha County UW-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.