

Sheboygan County Master Gardener



Message From the President Ruth Davis

Summertime! It's finally here! Time to get your hands and knees dirty! Time to feel the sun on your face and the ache in your back! Time to find the garden design plans you have been mulling over all winter long. Time to make that new garden design a reality. Time to visit all the garden centers, looking for all those new plants that you just can't live without! Time to once again renew your friendships with fellow gardeners that you haven't seen in a few months. It's time to look forward to the annual Master Gardener picnic, being held this year at the Wade House, on July 12th. It's time to visit all the beautiful gardens showcased on this year's Garden Walk, being held on July 14th.



It's just time to simply enjoy summer! I know that I will, I hope you do too!

"You know that you are a hard-core gardener, if you deadhead flowers in other people's garden". (Sue Careless)

Ruth Davis
President
Master Gardener Volunteers
Sheboygan County



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2018

July 12 - Master Gardener Picnic & Potluck, Wade House

July 14 - Sheboygan Area Garden Walk, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

September 2018

September 4 - November 20 - Master Gardener Volunteers Level 1 General Training

2018 Board Members and WIMGA Representative

President: Ruth Davis
Vice-President: Barb Retlich
Secretary: Lynn Thornton
Treasurer: Debbie Ott

Board Members:
Val Gillman
Niles Klaves
Marty Steinbruecker

WIMGA Representative: Pat Mersberger



Mini Maker Faire

Mead Public Library will be hosting the very first Mini Maker Faire Sheboygan on July 21, 2018, 10am-4pm. This is a great opportunity to represent Master Gardeners in the Sheboygan area community.

At a Mini Maker Faire, local makers, organizations and clubs have booth tables promoting their group or activity, preferably with a demonstration, samples or interactive activity for visitors.

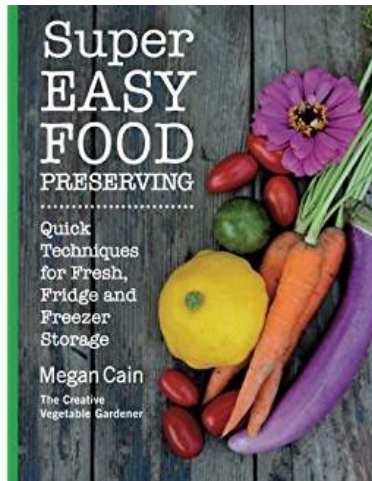
But if we are to participate we need 1 or 2 or 3 Master Gardeners to plan and organize our participation in the event. We will also need Master Gardeners to volunteer to work our booth on that day. I know it's short notice and the week after the Garden Walk and the same day as JMKAC Midsummer Festival of the Arts, but if you are interested in working on this project, please call Sue Mathews (920-458-1848) or Ruth Davis (920-912-8917).

Book Review

By Lynn Thornton

Super Easy Food Preserving: Quick Techniques for Fresh, Fridge, and Freezer Storage

Text and Photos:
by Megan Cain



I was fortunate to hear Megan Cain, The Creative Vegetable Gardener, speak at the UW Extension in March. She lives and gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, so all of her gardening tips that she shared were relevant to all of us who garden in Sheboygan County. I bought one of her books, and I'm happy that I did!

In her book, *Super Easy Food Preserving: Quick Techniques for Fresh, Fridge, and Freezer Storage*, Megan Cain, gave step-by-step directions for preserving vegetables, herbs, fruits and berries without canning. For each vegetable and fruit, she shared her favorite varieties for storage, when to harvest them, prep materials needed for preserving, best storage containers to use, easy storage directions, how long the food will store, other ideas for preserving, and where to find her favorite recipes online.

When reading her book, I learned that I can store beets and carrots in my refrigerator for six months to a year. After digging them up, leave the dirt on, dry the dirt for a few hours, put the beets or carrots in a plastic bag, tie it, poke a couple of holes in the bag, and put it in your refrigerator. It's that easy! I also learned how to freeze tomatoes and then use them to make pizza sauce or spaghetti sauce. Now I know what to do with my tomatoes when they are all ready to harvest at one time. If I don't want to grow that many, I could also buy them at a Farmer's Market and freeze them to use all winter long.

This book is short and easy to read. I give it 5 out of 5 stars because it fits my food preserving needs completely. I don't like to can because it takes all day. After reading Megan's book, I'm excited for the gardening season to begin, and I can't wait to fill my fridge and freezer with fresh, great tasting foods from my garden!

Note 1: Cain's other book *Smart Start Garden Planner: Your Step-by-Step Guide to a Successful Season*. Is a great practical guide to getting the most from your garden by selecting the correct varieties, choosing seed vs plant, making a planting plan, and keeping good records.

Note 2: Megan Cain was so well-received that we hope to have her back next year to talk about "Easy Food Preserving: Canning-Free."

Barb Retlich's Garden

Congratulations to Master Gardener Barb Retlich whose garden was featured in the May/June issue of *Wisconsin Gardening* magazine. Author/photographer Rob Zimmer calls her the Lady of the Woods.

Her woodland garden [is] located along steep ravines and hardwood forests that roll across the landscape just east of the mighty Kettle Moraine State Forest". It features many native plants and is ahum with butterflies and hummingbirds all summer long. Her grandchildren enjoy harvesting vegetables, finding salamanders and watching the visiting birds...all among a garden accented by family heirlooms and whimsical artwork.



Great job Barb!

Kelly Kearns "Invasive Plant Control for Gardeners"

DNR invasive plants expert Kelly Kearns shocked, scared, terrified the audience with her talk of invasive plants...what's here, what's coming and what the damage has been and will be.

Kelly explained why some plants are able to displace our native plants.

- ability to grow and reproduce rapidly via seed or vegetatively
- ability to out-compete natives
 - leaf out early and survive frosts
 - secrete toxins that inhibit natives
 - able to use excess nutrients
 - lack of natural predators and disease

She noted that 30 of the 68 plants regulated by the DNR are garden escapees and called on gardeners to be aware of the impact of their garden plants on our native ecosystem. Gardeners should follow these four rules...

- Don't plant known invasives (e.g. purple loosestrife, Japanese barberry, burning bush)
- Minimize site disturbance as you prepare your garden and landscape areas, don't give invasives a place to set roots
- Minimize spread of seeds and plants through human activities...clean your tools, footwear and clothes as you move between gardens and natural areas
- Work with your neighbors to get rid of plants that can become problems

Kelly also talked about methods of control and eradication of invasive plants. In an email after the program, Kelly recommended [this DNR webpage on control methods](#). Additional DNR publications on invasives can be found [here](#).

Tidbits from my Reading

By Sue Mathews

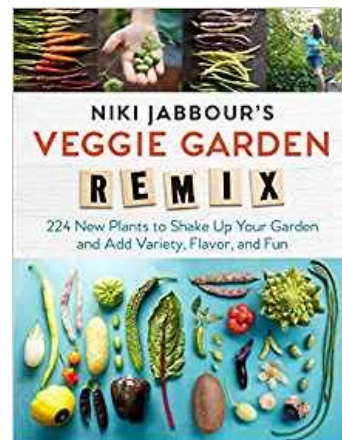
As our gardens begin to shine, many of us are driven to record our successes in photographs. Here are a few tips for making your photos shine as well...

1. Watch the light...early morning or late afternoon is more flattering...soft and misty in the morning, warm and golden later in the day. Avoid taking photos on bright cloudless afternoons as the direct overhead light drains color from the scene.
2. Shoot in foul weather...raindrops, fog, dew, frost, ice & snow make it all more interesting.
3. Tell a story...
4. Think about composition...think beyond flower closeups. Look for interesting textures, patterns, repetition, bold colors or quirky subjects to give photos extra punch.
5. Clean up clutter...Don't let debris, garden tools or dead foliage spoil the view. Stage your photo by moving a pot into the scene, wetting the foliage, or adding an art piece.
6. Add people to plants...to emphasize the inspiring connection between plants and people.
7. Look for wildlife...the presence of animals and insects bring a photo alive...just as they bring the garden alive. You will need to be patient and sneaky to catch the critters.
8. Try a few tricks...use a tripod or sturdy structure to steady a camera...use a white piece of cardboard as a reflector to soften shadows and improve lighting...pitch or create a tent to form a blind to photograph birds or bunnies closeup
9. Improve photos in the computer...get to know your PC's photo editing software and play around with adjustments and special effects.
10. Invest in a second lens...to catch better closeups or shoot from further away.

From:
"Ten Tips for Better Garden Photos", *Northern Gardener* July/August 2012



Spinach is a popular green grown in most vegetable gardens. But, it is a cool season crop and bolts in a minute when spring gives way to summer. Niki Jabbour (follow her at savvygardener.com) suggests several similar (mostly heat tolerant) plants that can be grown to add delicious variety to your salad garden:



--magenta spreen...giant lamb's quarters...only 30 days to baby greens

--amaranths...similar taste to spinach...45 days to begin harvesting

--molohkia

--sweet potato leaves...if you are growing this, harvest the leaves every 10 days while you wait for the tubers to develop...eat stir-fried, boiled or sautéd...DO NOT EAT ornamental sweet potato vines

--tatsoi...mild tasting mustard family...use in salad mix and stir fries...21 days to baby greens

--New Zealand spinach...tastes like spinach...attractive heat tolerant plant

--orach...colorful, edible and ornamental with mild citrus flavor

--Malabar spinach...vining Indian native...add young leaves to salads for peppery accent...use older leaves like okra to thicken soups, stews and gumbos

--hablitzia...extremely cold-hardy, perennial vine to grow in partial shade

You may have to look to the internet for seed sources. Check: Aster Lane Edibles, Ontario, Canada

From:
Niki Jabbour's Veggie Garden Remix: 224 New Plants to Shake Up Your Garden & Add Variety, Flavor, & Fun

Tidbits from my Reading

(continued)

Need a garden plan for a “No-Fuss Sunny Garden,” a “Long-Blooming Garden,” an “Heirloom Garden,” a “Garden to Soften a Fence” or a “Low-Water Garden”—check out this [Better Homes and Gardens webpage](#) which has full-color sketches, plans and plant lists for dozens of different gardens for special spots or tricky spaces.



Many gardeners are trying to make their gardens into friendlier habitats for pollinating insects. One way to do this is to plant native varieties. But for many gardeners, who want showier plants, natives aren't enough; and so, they look to 'nativars--'improved' genetic variants of a straight species. But, there is great debate as to whether 'nativars' provide the same eco-advantages as the native species.

Doug Tallamy reported the early findings of a study he participated in...

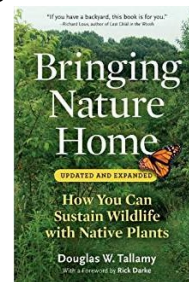
“We just finished a study looking at six common cultivar traits in native plants, and seeing how they might have impacted insect use of that plant. Now these are all woody plants, so we did not look at flowering; we did not look at flowers at all. So, we didn't look at the impact on pollinators; other people are doing that...”

But just in terms of how well leaves support caterpillars and other things that drive food webs. We looked at what happens when you make a green leaf, red or purple. What happens when you change that leaf into a variegated form? What happens when you take a tall plant and make it short, or change the habit in some way? When you enhance fall color? When you increase fruit size? What was the other trait? I think that's it; there were six traits.

The only thing that consistently deterred insect feeding was taking a green leaf and making it red or purple.

As he stresses this study did not include flowers. But he reports on the research of a graduate student who studied the floral appeal of the native *Hydrangea arborescens* compared to the 'nativar' most gardeners know--'Annabelle'. The breeders changed the lacecap flower into a mophead flower composed of sterile bracts very low in nectar. No big surprise to find that few insects visit 'Annabelle's' flowers.

From: “**A Way to Garden**”
podcast -
[Margaret Roach interviews Doug Tallamy author of “Bringing Nature Home”](#)

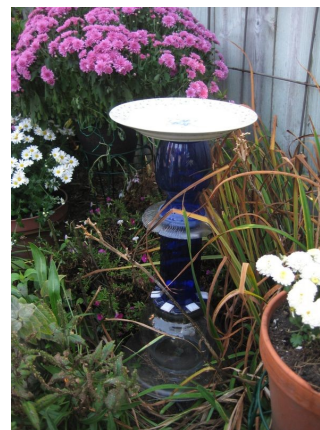


Garden Walk

Nine gardens will be featured on the 27th Annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk on July 14 from 9 am to 4 pm. Tickets are \$10.00. Don't forget your GPS because you will be taking a tour of Sheboygan County's back roads.

Here are the gardens that will be on display...

RIVER SERENITY - 789 River Meadows Dr, Falls
ALL ABOUT THE BIRDS AND BEES - N4598 Brusse Rd, Falls
THE GARDEN OF WEEDIN' - W2471 Ourtown Rd, Falls
MOM'S GARDEN - W2591 River Edge Dr, Oostburg
PRAYER GARDEN - 927 Superior Ave, Oostburg
SERENE SANCTUARY - W1359 Foster Rd, Oostburg
DEEP ROOTS GARDEN - W4337 Church Rd, Waldo
VU'S GARDEN - N3465 Tipperary Rd, Cascade
GAZEBO HILL - W7038 S County Rd A, Adell



Tour of LTC Greenhouse and Landscape Program

April 26, 2018

By Sherry Speth

This Spring the Sheboygan County Master Gardeners were invited for a tour of the LTC Greenhouse and Landscape grounds located in Cleveland. Ray Rogers, LTC Horticulture Instructor, led the tour. He began by asking us to think about 'sustainable gardening'. After a few attempts at answers, Ray explained that sustainable gardening practices is a key part of their horticulture program, which he defines as minimizing waste whether its material, energy or labor. He then led us inside the farmhouse for a quick look around. Here the kitchen was equipped with an extensive stainless steel prep table system for use with produce grown in the hoop houses and raised beds. Did you know that before melons can be sent to market they need to be cooled down? Without cooling, internal temps can reach over 100 degrees. If you don't lower the internal temperature, by the time it reached market, it will be spoiled. We then moved into what must have been the house parlor, which has been converted into a classroom perfect for lectures, visual aids and exams.

Outside Ray showed us a number of projects students had worked on such as stormwater runoff collection and treatment system and various hardscape projects. Ray explained that hardscape is a focus of his co-instructor: Gus. The grounds also includes raised beds and a hoop house.



Finally we were shown the greenhouse. Part of it had previously been used for aquaculture, but an electrical outage stopped the aeration and killed the tilapia. Ray explained they had found the aquaculture system could not be economically sustained because it required a major commitment to analyze and adjust water chemistry that the horticulture program could not support. Ray then used a number of greenhouse displays to explain the LTC horticulture program. He emphasizes hands-on skills necessary for commercial employment opportunities. For example, each student must learn to complete an inventory of the greenhouse. They must determine which of the greenhouse plants to keep and which to cull. They learn plant propagation techniques. And they are responsible for the plants being raised in the greenhouse for their Spring sale, which raises money to support the horticulture program.

Master Gardener participants enjoyed the visit and were impressed by the LTC facilities and horticulture program. And many of the plants were spectacular.

Note: In the session I attended Roy made one enthusiastic product recommendation for [Safer Insect Killing Soap with Seaweed Extract](#). This product is organic compliant and safe to use up until the day of harvest.



Master Gardener Volunteer Program

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a state-wide program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.



Master Gardeners receive horticulture training from UW-Extension specialists and

faculty. In return for their training, Master Gardener Volunteers assist their local County UW-Extension office in educational programs and horticulture projects which enhance the community.

UW-Extension represents a partnership between the University of Wisconsin System and Sheboygan County.

For more information about the Master Gardener Volunteer program contact:

University of Wisconsin-Extension
Sheboygan County
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081
(920) 459-5904
Relay 711
<http://sheboygan.uwex.edu>



University of Wisconsin, United States Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin Counties Cooperating. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including ADA and Title IX requirements.



Master Gardener Volunteers

General Training
Level 1
Fall 2018



**Tuesdays,
September 4 - November 20, 2018**

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**UW-Extension Sheboygan County
5 University Drive
Sheboygan**



Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) are individuals who have an interest in horticulture and have taken Master Gardener training offered by UW-Extension. MGVs share their time and knowledge with others. It is the acquisition of knowledge, the skill of gardening and the giving back to the community that distinguishes UW-Extension MGVs from other gardeners.

The Master Gardener General Training (Level 1) Program consists of 36 hours of in-depth training on a variety of horticultural topics. Classes are delivered using a combination of on-line learning and classroom instruction.

To become a certified Master Gardener, you must:

- Authorize a background check, Master Gardeners work with children through senior citizen age groups
- Complete the General Training Level 1 Course
- Achieve a 70% or better score on the final exam
- Complete 24 hours of volunteer service

Level 1 training runs for twelve weeks beginning September 4th. Classes are scheduled from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm



Course Topics Include:

- Botany
- Herbaceous Plants
- Backyard Wildlife
- Entomology
- Plant Pathology
- Soil and Composting
- Landscaping
- Vegetables
- Native Plants
- Weed, Pest Control and Phenology
- Fruit for the Home Gardener
- Lawn Care
- The Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Class Schedule:

- September 4, 11, 18, 25
- October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- November 6, 13, 20

Course Fee—\$95.00

Fee includes: on-line & classroom sessions, “Master Gardener Program Manual”, membership dues for the 2019 Sheboygan County Master Gardener and Wisconsin Master Gardener Associations. For more information call: (920) 459-5904.

Class Location:

UW-Extension Sheboygan County
Room 5020 & 5022
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI

Located on the UW-Sheboygan Campus
<http://sheboygan.uwex.edu/office-map-and->

Deadline is August 31, 2018

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PARTICIPANT. PLEASE PRINT.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email _____

Additional Registration Forms (Background Check and Volunteer Agreement Forms) required with payment at registration time and can be found online under paperwork tab at: <https://wimastergardener.org/toolbox/>

Course Fee: \$95.00 \$ _____ Amount

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
Sheboygan County UW-Extension

Mail Registrations To:
Sheboygan County UW-Extension
Attn: Tammy
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081