Hello Gardeners,,

I enjoy the anticipation of spring this time of year. The days get longer, the seed catalogs are abundant, and seed packets are appearing in the stores, along with all those shiny garden tools. I tend to go back to my tried and true plants and seeds, but always try one new variety. I still haven’t decided what that will be.

It has been an interesting winter, with a little of everything: snow, rain, sleet, and above and below average temperatures. I am hoping the ground hog is right and we have an early spring. I am ready! After a nice break, it’s time to get back into the garden.

Hope to see all of you at the Annual Project Sign Up on March 12th.

Marty Steinbruecker
President, Master Gardener Volunteers
Sheboygan County
The Project Signup Meeting and Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 12 beginning at 5:30 in Room 5020. No need to cook... just RSVP and come for a complimentary hot dinner from 5:30 – 6:15 pm. The menu includes broasted chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, coleslaw and dessert. A vegetarian option is available if requested.

There will be a short presentation on the new state reporting system for recording your hours. While it is not yet functional, MGV’s can enroll now as a first step. Then... it’s time for project sign ups, door prizes, and a chance to order new Master Gardener Volunteer clothing. We will not be doing a large group presentation of the projects. Instead, each project leader will be at a table. Volunteers can mingle and check out all the projects, asking questions, viewing pictures and descriptions.

Each person who attends will receive a ticket for the door prizes. Signing up for a project will get you an additional ticket. We have lots of great prizes!

You must RSVP to Tammy Zorn at tammy.zorn@ces.uwex.edu if you will be joining us for dinner no later than Thursday, February 28th.

INSIDE OUT: Using House Plants in the Garden

On Thursday, April 11, Rob Zimmer will present a program on “Moving Your Houseplants to Your Garden.” It will start at 6:30 p.m. in UWEX Room 5020.

Discover the growing trend that finds people using foliage and blooming house plants in their outdoor gardens. Incorporating house plants in containers and garden beds is a hot trend. They can be used outdoors all season long, then either brought inside for the winter or treated as annuals. See examples of many colorful, creative ways to use house plants outdoors in combination with annuals and perennials in the garden and in containers. It’s something most people have never heard of and it’s amazing, opening up a whole new way to look at plants.

You can listen to “Outdoors with Rob Zimmer” online on WHBY radio every Friday from 4:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Many of his beautiful books are available from Amazon.
The annual Recognition Meeting was held on Saturday, February 16. Award certificates were presented to volunteers who have reached certain levels of cumulative hours of service in the Master Gardener program. President Marty Steinbruecker handed out the awards with these comments: “Congratulations to all who achieved this significant accomplishment. They deserve to be recognized for their valuable contributions to our community and our state. It is the volunteer service that Master Gardeners have provided over the years that make this program so exceptional”.

In 2018 Sheboygan County Master Gardeners gave 3328 hours of service to our community working on around 28 projects throughout Sheboygan County. So, ALL Master Gardeners should give themselves a pat on the back.

After the awards were handed out members participated in a dish garden make-and-take workshop presented by Jessica and Keith Arbuckle of Arbuckle Floral & Decorating in Plymouth. Everyone went home with a lovely dish garden to tide them over until outdoor gardening season begins and we can really dig in the dirt.

In addition, it is opening day of the Butterflies and Blooms exhibit—a live butterfly experience showcasing native pollinators and the plants they love. An 1,800-square-foot mesh butterfly house will be located in the garden. Three hundred new butterflies will arrive each week for a total of 4,500 butterflies throughout the entire summer. Thirteen different species of native butterflies will be featured: American Lady, Cabbage White, Eastern Black Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Eastern Comma, Monarch, Mourning Cloak, Painted Lady, Question Mark, Red Admiral, White Admiral, Viceroy.

And, of course, it will be a wonderful time to admire the late spring bloomers in the garden. Food vendors will be available for you to lunch on your own.

More information will be coming soon.

Save the date for a Master Gardener Road trip to the Green Bay Botanical Garden on June 1. Plans are still in the developmental stage, but we hope to add a couple more stops along the way.

June 1 is a great day to visit the GBBG because it’s the day of the Garden Fair. You will be able to shop selections from local plant professionals featuring annuals, perennials, containers, hanging baskets, succulents, shrubs and more! There will also be gardening supplies, pots, bulbs, landscape design services and limited handcrafted garden art for sale as well.

Green Bay Botanical Garden will also be carefully selecting plants for sale tested right here at the Garden! Shop for plants on Friday and Saturday, dig your holes and water them on Sunday, and you’ll have a brand new landscape (with garden selfies to show off at work) by Monday.

Recognition Meeting
Recognition Meeting

1000 Hours

Pictured left to right: Lori Walker, Barb Nyenhuis

500 Hours

Pictured left to right: Terri Jeske, Connie Gross

250 Hours

Pictured left to right: Niles Klaves, Pat Mersberger. Not pictured: Kris Bemis, David Eiden, Debbie Ott.

150 Hours


Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers enjoying a dish garden make and take workshop.
Autumn at the River 2018
By Doris Weber

Note: Doris Weber received a Sheboygan County Master Gardener Continuing Education Grant to help defray the costs of attending the WIMGA state conference in Eau Claire in September 2018. One of the requirements of the grant is to share what she learned with other Master Gardeners...through a workshop, a talk, or an article in the newsletter. If you are interested in applying for a continuing education grant you can find the application form here.

While attending the Master Gardener State Conference in Eau Claire, my husband and I signed up for a day of tours to Mary Dirty Face Farm (a sustainable fruit farm) and River Bend Winery. We left Lismore Conference Center at 10:00 am and travelled by bus to the farm located in Dunn County. We travelled through lovely rolling hills and valleys and ended up in Dunn County in 45 minutes. The owner, Rachel, met us and led us down a rolling hill into the orchard. As the weather had turned from sunny and warm the day before to cold and blustery with wind gust of 45 MPH, we were led among a variety of apples, pears, plums, and rows of different types of berries. We were informed that Honeycrisp apples of all varieties are hard to raise and maintain. After an hour we were led to a small shelter for apple tasting and were able to buy apples, jams and jellies before we headed back to the bus. We were very thankful to be out of the weather. A list of the fruits grown at Mary Dirty Face farm can be found here.

Our next stop was the Riverbend Winery. A box lunch was provided by Panera and we filled their gift shop and tasting room before venturing outdoors through the vineyard to learn about the grapes used for wine production. The vineyard was well maintained and the owner did a great job of explaining all about the care of the vines, harvesting, and getting to the production line. After a short tasting time we headed to the bus for the ride back to Eau Claire. You can find out more about River Bend Winery at their blog. While we enjoyed both tours we felt that we spent too much time travelling and not enough visiting the places of interest.

But my main goal was to listen to Diane Alfuth, a UWEX horticulture educator, on getting kids hooked on nature and gardening. One great point which I will always remember from her session is “IT’S GOT TO BE FUN” to hook kids on gardening. You’ve got to create a space, make it a destination, make it theirs, create an adventure, and keep it safe! It HAS to be fun! It can’t seem like work to them, even though you’re sneaking work into the fun part! It may take the kids forever, but allow them to figure things out on their own. Don’t rush them along while in their garden. Let their curiosity roam! And don’t forget to praise their accomplishments with actions, not just words. Grow specific plants for certain people and those members of who do not enjoy gardening but like to devour fresh garden produce.

One must remember, not all kids will be interested in gardening. But, their exposure to the gardens and you role modeling may resurface later in life.
No more beetles. Garden Gate, February 2019

Zonal geraniums are beetle zappers...Japanese beetle zappers. Shortly after feasting on zonal geraniums Japanese beetles are temporarily paralyzed. You may find them laying on the leaves or flowers or fallen to the ground. They are not dead, but much likelier to fall prey to predators...including a determined gardener with a container of soapy water. The effect wears off after 24 hours so look carefully when you do your daily beetle sweep. You might even consider planting a few zonal geraniums in an out of the way spot to tempt beetles away from other plants. Researchers are looking into how they can utilize on this unique “pesticide” effect.

Trash can cloche. Garden Gate, February 2019

Do you have a problem with birds, bunnies and other critters munching on the new plants you set out? A reader discovered her favorite plant protector at the dollar store. Wire mesh trash baskets, 10 inches tall and wide, are great to set over seedlings until they are sturdy enough to survive on their own. You may want to poke small stakes (or wire staples) through the mesh to stabilize them. And they are easy to stack and store when you are finished with them.

New and Improved Varieties of Some of our Favorite Plants

- A disease resistant red twig dogwood...
  Fine Gardening, February 2019
  ‘Cayenne’ silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum ‘Cayenne’*) Zones: 4-9 H: 6-8 ft W: 8-10 ft
- A brighter, always blooming Rozanne with nicely dissected foliage...
  Fine Gardening, April 2019
  ‘Tiny Monster geranium (*Geranium ‘Tiny Monster’*) Zones: 4-8 H: 10-15 in W: 24-30 in
- An infertile, non-invasive miscanthus grass...
  Fine Gardening, April 2019
  Bandwidth miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis ‘NCMS2B’*) Zones: 5-9 H: 26-30 in W: 26-30 in
- A shorter, earlier-blooming pollinator magnet...
  Garden Gate, February 2019
  Euphoria ™ Ruby Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpurea*) Zones: 5-9 H: 24-32 in W: 18-24 in
- A more winter hardy dwarf butterfly bush with full-sized flowers
  Garden Gate, February 2019
  Pugster® Amethyst butterfly bush (*Buddleja hybrid*) Zones: 5-9 H: 18-24 in W: 18-24 in
- A dwarf reblooming catmint with flowers from top to bottom of stem
  Garden Gate, April 2019
  ‘Cat’s Pajama’s’ catnip (*Nepeta ‘Cat’s Pajama’s’*) Zones: 3-9 H: 12-14 in W: 18-20 in

Pine needles, oak leaves, and soil acidity. Fine Gardening, February 2019

Soil pH is very stable and it takes a lot to change it. When we wish to change it we add inorganic materials—limestone to make it more alkaline and sulfur to make it more acidic. Organic materials are not useful because they are simply not strong enough.

The effect of oak leaves on soil pH has been extensively studied and applying composted oak leaves to lawns has demonstrated no increase in soil acidity. Adding uncomposted leaves to vegetable gardens also delivers no changes in pH. Pine needle research is lacking, but most extension service publications agree that they are unlikely to acidify soil.

How to win a slug fest. Fine Gardening, February 2019

This process is not for the faint of heart (or weak of knees). If saucers of beer and hand-picking are not for you, grab a plastic fork. The tines are just wide enough to hold a sneaky slug. A quick jab at the slug, a twist of the wrist and you’ve caught it...up to 4 or 5 on a fork. The scrape them off into a pail of salty water to quickly finish the off. You can use the fork to coax the out of cracks and when you are finished just toss it into the trash.
2019 Project Chairs & Co-Chairs

- **Bookworm Garden**
  Sherry Speth
  467-2002
  sspeth@excel.net

- **Camp Y-Koda**
  Stephanie Larson
  207-1951
  slcreativecom51@gmail.com

  Teresa Claerbout
  918-0466
  tclerbour@icloud.com

- **Children's Museum Garden**
  Marty Steinbruecker
  946-0206
  martystein@charter.net

- **Education & Program Committee**
  Sue Mathews
  458-1848
  sukarma2@yahoo.com

- **Garden Walk -**
  Lynnette Rakun
  946-1673
  lmtrakun@live.com

  Doris Weber
  467-3266
  doris@johngweber.com

  Connie Gross
  400-1273
  bernice627@aol.com

- **Generations—Plymouth**
  Sue Droll
  946-3064
  sdroll@excel.net

- **Horticultural Hotline**
  Connie Gross
  400-1273
  bernice627@aol.com

- **John Michael Kohler Arts Center Indoor Garden**
  Christina Wilke-Burbach
  889-1318
  mindsoulandself@yahoo.com

- **Kohler Andre State Park**
  Sue Mathews
  458-1848
  sukarma2@yahoo.com

- **Kohler Foundation/Waelderhaus Herb Garden**
  Lynn Thornton
  980-6545
  lynnthornton2001@yahoo.com

- **Lakefront Garden**
  Lori Walker
  946-6512
  gardengirl31@yahoo.com

- **Marsh Park Tower Project**
  Nancy Themar
  894-3660
  nancythemar@gmail.com

- **Master Gardener Newsletter**
  Sue Mathews
  458-1848
  sukarma2@yahoo.com

- **Maywood Rain Garden**
  Marty Steinbruecker
  946-0206
  martystein@charter.net

- **Meals on Wheels Vegetable Garden**
  Faith Gruber
  946-2631
  took6491@att.net

  Barb Nyenhuis
  980-4820
  banyenhuis@aol.com

- **Mini Maker Faire**
  Mark Smith
  207-1578
  markmaureena@yahoo.com

Please contact any committee chair or Marty Steinbruecker (946-0206) if you have questions or are interested in signing up for one of the committee projects.
2019 Project Chairs & Co-Chairs

- **October 11th Memorial and Dutch Settlement Historical Marker**
  Lori Walker
  946-6512
gardengirl31@yahoo.com

- **Plank Road Trail Trailhead Maintenance**
  **Erie Avenue**
  David Eiden
  457-8627
deiden@excel.net

- **Plank Road Trail Trailhead Maintenance**
  **Greenbush**
  Val Gillman
  893-8215
  vgillman@wi.rr.com

- **Plank Road Trail Trailhead Maintenance**
  **Plymouth—Hwy 57**

- **Plank Road Trail Trailhead Maintenance**
  **Sheboygan Falls**
  Teresa Claerbout
  918-0466
tclaerbout@icloud.com

- **Plymouth Arts Center**
  Pamela Hailer
  892-8390
  pamhailer@gmail.com

- **Senior Activity Center of Sheboygan**
  Sue Garski
  912-8081
  smgarski@att.net

- **Sensory Gardens**
  Barb Pence
  459-7962
  barbpence30@icloud.com

- **Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice**
  Ruth Davis
  912-8917
  redrudie52@yahoo.com

- **Sheboygan County Fair**
  Sue Droll
  946-3064
  sdroll@excel.net

- **Sheboygan South High School Courtyard**
  Nicki Schumacher
  207-6
  nschumacher@sasd.net

- **Social/Sunshine Committee - Annual Mtg, Picnic, Potluck & Parties**
  Lori Walker
  946-6512
gardengirl31@yahoo.com

- **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School Garden**
  Deb Erickson
  889-8808
dame12@excite.com

- **UW-Sheboygan Campus Landscaping**
  Sherry Speth
  467-2002
  sspeth@excel.net

- **Wade House**
  Kathy Schneider
  526-3235
  kssmls@gmail.com

- **Yankee Garden—Sheboygan Falls**
  Vickie Lindstrom
  565-2521
  vlindstrom@lindstromdds.com

Please contact any committee chair or Marty Steinbreuecker
(946-0206) if you have questions or are interested in signing up for one of the committee projects.