



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

 University of Wisconsin-Madison Sheboygan County
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Sheboygan County Master Gardener



Message From the President Marty Steinbruecker

Hello Gardeners,,,

Well, here we are in mid May and still waiting for spring to arrive. Yes, I know spring officially begins in March, but with the exception of a couple of days with temperatures near 70 degrees, temps in the 40's seem kind of the norm. This is especially true if you live near the lake.



If you have not checked out the [Wisconsin Master Gardener Website](#), take time to do this. There is so much information you can use, and some really interesting facts. You can view and download the Annual Report to find all kinds of data that Master Gardeners provide in terms of community service. I was most impressed with the impact the organization has for community service. State wide, Master Gardeners logged 179,000 hours, equivalent to \$4,300,764. Sheboygan County alone logged 3,328 hours, worth \$79, 872. This shows the importance of the work you do at each of your projects.

Enjoy the summer when it arrives. Take time to sit outside, relax, relish the warmth, listen to all the sounds of summer, and see all the beauty around you.

Marty Steinbruecker
 President, Master Gardener Volunteers
 Sheboygan County



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2019

Saturday, July 13 - SAGW - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday, July 25 - Picnic Potluck - 5:30 pm



Picnic Potluck

The Master Gardener Picnic and Potluck will be held on Thursday, July 25. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Eating begins at 6:00. **Please note:** There has been a change of date. Originally scheduled for July 23 now changed to Thursday, July 25.

Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair. Everything else will be provided.

Hosting us, once again, in her wonderful garden is Doris Weber. Her garden is located at W1932 Mayberry Road. To reach this garden take CTH O (Superior Ave) and turn north on to Woodland Road (which is between Rangeline Road and CTH Y), then turn left (west) onto Mayberry Road.

There is parking on Mayberry Road, Leys Road and N 66th St. Woodland Road is very busy, so best not to park there.

RSVP to Tammy Zorn tammy.zorn@wisc.edu or 459-5904 by July 18. We will be grilling burgers and brats; so, let Tammy know if you would like a veggie burger.



Thank You!

One of the events at the Annual Project Meeting Sign Up held last March was the door prize drawing. This would not have been possible without the generous donations from the following businesses.

**Caan Floral and
Greenhouses
Evans
Home Depot
Kohler Gardener
Menards
Moraine Gardens
Otter Creek
Pondside Gardens
Walmart
Trilling True Value
Hardware**



23rd Annual SAGW 2019

By Connie Gross

The 2019 Garden Walk will be held on July 13th from 9:00am to 4:00pm (Rain or Shine). July 11th (8:30 a.m to noon) is preview day for those MG's and Garden Club members working in the gardens on July 13th. Because the raffle was so successful at last year's Walk, Lake Shore Garden Club will offer the raffle again at this year's Walk. The raffle will be held at Lakeside Escape located at 3217 N 6th St., Sheboygan. Tickets will also be available on preview day. 100% of the proceeds from the raffle will go to Bookworm Gardens Summer Student Internship Program.

This walk features gardens in the Sheboygan area. We have eight (8) gardens total with four (4) on the Northside and four (4) on the Southside. The SAGW Selection Committee chose gardens to represent the many types of gardens for a city yard. We included vegetable, prairie inspired, scenic, classical, whimsical, & a concrete jungle garden.

Grey Fox Gardens represents the "English Tea Garden" with prairie thrown into the mix. It includes many different textures and colors throughout their unique meandering paths lined with stones, truly a work of heart & soul.

Tranquil Waters offers the soothing sound of running water from a pond with a waterfall which attracts large numbers of birds and animals, butterflies, hummingbirds and even a hawk family two years in a row.

We will be having our plant sale at this garden which is located at 1709 Plainwood Circle, Sheboygan.

A Plantsman's Garden is a small property that is filled with collections of unique plants including a prairie garden, container plantings (that fill a newly constructed greenhouse) grown for entry in flower shows. The owner is a lifelong gardener as well as an educator in this field.

The Gardens of "Deerly" Delights is your classical garden done without restraints and somehow it all comes together in a very delightful way. The name speaks well of itself and provides a haven for the baby deer that are born in the far back wooded area of their yard.

City Sweet Garden is a corner lot that started out as raised beds of vegetables and has continued to grow every year since. They grow plants that are

not typical in a city garden such as kiwi, goji berries and honeyberries. Come visit and learn at this particular garden about bees, butterflies, etc. You will be amazed at how a small area can produce so much produce. Honey will be offered for purchase also if it's a good season.

Concrete Jungle is a garden whose owner was inspired upon seeing an exhibit of concrete figures at the JMKAC. Her first project was a learning experience which led to many more completed figures. You have to see this self -taught accomplished artist's works of art. Also, on sight will be handmade bowls made from exotic woods for sale by a local Wood Turner/Artist. Each and every one of them is different and unique.

Children age 12 and under are admitted free with adult supervision. Bring your children/grandchildren to see the "jungle critters" at the Concrete Jungle.

Stone Soup Garden

is based upon an old folk story about hungry strangers convincing people to share food so they may make a meal everyone enjoys. The owners share the same values in regards to their garden. Let's share plants, art work, ideals, knowledge and STORIES and

this garden is filled with them. Whimsy and playful as the Cat's Meow would say.



Last but not least is the **Lakeside Escape Garden** which has been inspired by the ever-changing backdrop of the lake. The owners started with the layout of the garden from prior owner Walter Vollrath Sr. and added new hardscape as well as new beds every year since. This is a spacious scenic flowing garden framed by the backdrop of Lake Michigan. Come walk the winding paths. There will be a raffle held at this garden in which you may purchase tickets.

Admission \$10.00 per adult.

Stone Soup Garden—The Evolution of Our Garden

By Joe Smoot and Brent Frederick

Stone Soup is an old folk story in which hungry strangers convince the people of a town to each share a small amount of their food in order to make a meal that everyone enjoys, and exists as a moral regarding the value of sharing. This is what our garden is about, sharing plants, art work, ideas, knowledge, and stories.



Our garden started in April of 2004 when renting the lower of a duplex. Being a rental with no onsite landscape investment, the yard had minimal care. There was grass growing over the sidewalks and literally, 2 plants in the yard. There was a nearly dead

white lilac next to the porch and a 2 ½ story failing blue spruce. Luckily, our landlords Don and Emily let us do what we wanted to the yard. After 4 years of developing the yard, we decided it was in our best interest to buy the house!

The garden started with basic additions of Unique Hydrangeas along the front of the house (bought at Stein's the fall before at 90% off and our favorite time to buy) and some hosta and ferns under the tall blue spruce. The initial plants were some dug up from a previous garden that was moved from Oshkosh, but also many from friends and family sharing with us. We got hosta from our friends Patricia and Glenda, ferns from my mom, and various perennials from others. Eventually, gardens and plants were put in on both sides of the sidewalk. Initially they were 3' but, have now gotten much wider. At this point, it was easier to buy the house than to move the plants.

After buying the house in 2008, we decided to change the lay of the yard by adding a dry stack retaining wall along the east side of the property,

along the sidewalk. Who knew that there were so many permits needed! Originally, the grass sloped to the sidewalk and proved difficult to plant. The retaining wall is about 2' tall and has leveled out the yard and created a more dynamic yard and garden, but also allows us more privacy.

The wall in place we could start serious planting. It has become a conversation piece. When we see people talking and pointing at things in the garden, we try to go out and engage them in conversation. We love to share successes and failures of the gardens and enjoy the stories we hear, too. We have been told by some that our garden is their destination on their walks in the morning.

The yard continues to evolve every year. We have many friends in the horticultural world (having worked in it myself – Joe) and have been blessed with wonderful knowledge on must have and more unique plants. Our friend Zannah has been a wonderful source of information and plants, always sharing. We are very thankful of her perennial knowledge that has influence our yard.

Primarily, the garden is made up of perennials. However, we planted 2 trees to anchor and continue the shade the garden once the blue spruce is removed. We added a fern leaf beech and a moosewood. The moosewood we read about in an article in Horticulture Magazine about the 5 top maples for the yard. Little did we know that it's a common understory plant. It offers much interest to the garden as it is a vigorous grower and with its green and white striped bark and yellow fall color. Many people pass by and comment. The fern leaf beech was chosen as a result of a tree that is in our friend Susan's yard in Milwaukee. It's a gorgeous specimen tree. Ours is tiny next to hers. We wanted something different, and they both fit the bill. As the 3 trees continue to grow, our yard has changed, too, with less on grass and more on plantings. There have been 3 other smaller trees added, too; a fringe tree, Bloodgood Japanese Maple, and a Seven Sons. Even the birds have shared in our plants by providing us with a Pagoda Dogwood.

We have collected many plants over the years by attending lectures, reading garden magazines, visiting garden centers and botanical gardens,

Stone Soup Garden

and mainly by talking to friends and family who share this common interest. A gardener's best friend is an enthusiastic horticulturist at an inspiring garden center. It's a long list to discuss all the plants and stories, so we will leave it at that!

We have extended our garden and yard seasonally to our back carport which is our patio. It has grown into pots of tropical such as cannas and brugmansia and supplemented with various other bulb and annuals. We share many cutting and the over abundance of bulbs with friends in the fall. Our friends keep us in mind when they are at a garden center and see something they think we may like, too. We have gotten some wonderful new things this way. It is particularly wonderful when the jasmine and brugmansia are in bloom. The fragrance and flowers are truly beautiful. The summer is wonderful, but come fall, they all have to be carted to the basement for a winter under grow lights!



We also have a small "colony" of feral cats, 4 to be exact, who call our yard home. They have all been trapped and neutered over 5 years ago and enjoy our yard. We have never been able to pet them but they enjoy hanging out on the patio furniture, front

steps, their heated kitty condos, and hiding in the hosta. Every night, Light Red Kitty sits on our porch surveying his kingdom. Needless to say, we do not have a mouse, squirrel, chipmunk, or rabbit problem. They add great love and charm while we are working in the garden. We are thrilled they feel safe and loved to stay in our garden.



The yard has also been a great place to infuse our love of art. A neighbor, when on trips, always brought back a new piece of fun concrete statuary for us. She also gifted some of her collection to our yard. Over the years, we have enjoyed buying new pieces for the yard from local art fairs and artists. Relationships have developed with artist whose work we enjoy. We love the interaction and spatial relationships that occur in the garden. The art ranges from concrete, resin, glass, metal, and ceramic pieces. Every year, they get moved around the yard to engage the garden in a new way. The garden has also attracted artists to visit and be inspired by the garden. Our friend Evelyn has often photographed in the yard and done incredible watercolor paintings. Our friend Kay has asked to do art work in the garden to be inspired.

Once a year, we host a garden party to share our garden with friends and family. This allows us to share our passion with others as they have shared with us over the years. We have been given so much in regards to the garden, its great to share.

Capture Your Master Gardeners Volunteer Project in Photos



A picture is worth a thousand words. Please take some time to photograph your Master Gardener Project Garden and the MGVs working in it and email it to Sue Mathews (sukarma2@yahoo.com) and Tammy Zorn (tammy.zorn@wisc.edu). It is useful to have local photos for our website, our newsletter and for presentations we do about Sheboygan County Master Gardeners. Happy clicking.

Above and Beyond Children's Museum Project

By Marty Steinbruecker

We are gearing up for another season of "Eat Play and Grow." While the vegetable gardens are looking empty now, that's because we have children plant the majority of the vegetables and fruits grown. Each Wednesday morning, beginning June 19, families drop in between the hours of 10 am to noon to get hands on experience with planting, maintaining, and harvesting the plants. Whatever is harvested is used to make the snack for the session.

Thank you to volunteers from Lutheran High School and Sheboygan Christian High School who braved the cold to get the gardens prepped. Lutheran High students broad forked the vegetable gardens, trimmed perennials, removed timber edging from two gardens and removed weeds from the flowerbeds. Sheboygan Christian students moved two yards of garden soil to the raised beds and larger gardens, along with hand weeding the area near the apple trees and herb garden. Your hard work was appreciated!



UW Sheboygan Campus Winter Damage

By Sherry Speth

Mother Nature can really throw gardeners curves and this spring is no exception. After coming out of a very snowy 2018/2019 winter, the deer had a party in our University of Green Bay - Sheboygan Campus gardens resulting in a lot of plant damage. Almost over-night they descended upon the gardens stripping needles from a 15-foot high Alaskan Cedar planted by the Extension Entrance and a Serbian



Spruce placed in the pocket garden (See photo). In addition, the deer trampled the Blue Star Junipers breaking branches to the point that they will take several years to recover. The Yew in the Island Garden was also stripped of needles; indeed, the deer stripped all the leaves from a big - leaf rhododendron and munched on the Danica Arborvitae. They were desperate enough to eat the large junipers located around the university buildings. A buck must have slogged through the

snow up to the Patio Garden to rub its antlers on a very nice Japanese maple breaking the trunk and stripping all the side branches. They ate the buds on 3 Pagoda Dogwoods and a Korean Spicebush in the Engineering Garden. You could see as their trail went past the 3 Gingko and Red Fox Katsura that they sampled them as well.

Many of these plants should have been deer resistant, but obviously not this year. And if that wasn't enough, they also visited Bookworm Garden which sustained even more damage than we did at the university.

With this damage, what's a gardener to do? Because the garden is located within the City, we cannot get rid of the deer; so, we will be hard pressed to prevent future damage; but we are looking at ideas to discourage the deer such as repellants and snow fences.

At the gardens, we have changed our plans and are not buying as many annuals and perennial plants as we planned. Rather, this money is being used to replace many of the trees and bushes that were badly damaged. Several new plants have been placed to hide damage to trees that we want to save. And, thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, primarily Jim Burkard, who grew numerous flats of annuals, we still have enough annuals to brighten the gardens. We have spent a couple of weeks replacing damaged plants and planting the replacements. We hope our efforts make a difference.



Pass the Horseradish Please

By Connie Gross

Last September I attended *Autumn at the River*, the Master Gardener Conference held in Eau Claire.

At this conference I had decided to do the Tour 1 Option which included three stops with the first visit to the world's largest producer of horseradish (Silver Spring Foods) as well as a visit to a local CSA (Sunbow Farm) and last but not least we finished the tour with a visit to Down to Earth Garden Center.

When I was deciding what tour to choose I was not thrilled about the horseradish factory but was more than surprised at how interesting horseradish turned out to be. Ken Traaseth, our tour guide, greeted us on the bus with a brief introduction of the history of the farm before we began the tour. Ken who is Vice President of Agricultural Operations at Silver Springs has been working with the Huntsinger Farms since he was a child.

Huntsinger Farms was founded by Ellis Huntsinger in 1929, located near a fresh water spring outside of Eau Claire. This is where the company product of horseradish, as well as all their other Specialty Sauces, eventually got their name. Huntsinger Farms farms over 9,000 acres not only outside of Eau Claire but also in Minnesota. As Ken explained Wisconsin & Minnesota provide the perfect climate (winters) that give the roots the strength that they need to promote that sharp taste we all seek. It simply makes for a superior end product.

So, now it's time to disembark and proceed with the tour. Ken took us first behind the main facility where they had mountains of harvested horseradish roots. He held up a root that was all gnarly with offshoots that sort of resembled a turnip. He went on to explain that they use a crop rotation plan. He stressed how important it was to prevent diseases by growing horseradish only once on the same plot of land every seven years. He stated that they harvest the roots in spring and fall only after its been in the ground for a good year. As our group stood there I observed the horseradish being dumped onto a conveyor belt which took it to the upper floor of the building.

The tour proceeded to visit the sorting process in the upper part of the building. We observed employees sorting the roots by size and also cutting off the shoots to later be used in replantings. Amish women were gathering up the roots into bundles to be sold to other horseradish growers.



The next area we entered was downstairs where the roots would be passed through metal detectors. This is used as a safety precaution before they are tumbled in a makeshift concrete mixer from a concrete truck. My husband found this to be very interesting and clever. Can you imagine the amount of roots they can tumble in that tumbler at once.

From there we went to the warehouse sized cold storage area where there were mountains of horseradish being stored at 35 degrees. Ken explained that in order for the horseradish to maintain its (hot) attribute it has to stay cold.

I would be remiss if I didn't tell you about our bus driver who picked up a root outside the harvest area about the size of a large carrot. He munched on this root throughout our tour and by the time we reached the tumbler room his root was literally gone. I asked him how his belly was feeling and he said just fine and dandy. I often wondered how his belly was feeling though at the end of the day. With that said we all know that horseradish benefits your health by providing powerful antioxidant properties as well-being especially useful in relieving sinus and respiratory distress. Hot, powerful & pungent, just a little goes a long way...so pass the horseradish please!