Sheboygan County
Master Gardener

The Board Speaks
From Mark Smith

Perhaps more charming than a talking horse is a speaking board. And so, at the bequest of our Sheboygan County MGV Board, you’ll hear from each of your Board members, one at a time, starting with this edition of our MGV Newsletter. My objectives with this first-of-a-kind missive are modest… I hope only to not come off like a talking donkey. Let me know how I do, please!

Greetings, fellow Sheboygan County MGVs! Mark Smith here. I’m serving in my first official rotation as a Board member and have been a MGV for about three years, all right here in Sheboygan County. My interest in MGVs dates to my time in the Marquette, MI area. The Yooper MGVs do a tremendous job with their short growing season; they’re truly an inspiration.

I was finally able to connect with Master Gardeners when we moved to the Sheboygan area; I’ve found you folks to be just as inspiring as our up-north cousins. Our trail heads, Bookworm Gardens, the JMKAC, etc. etc. are amazing. You’re doing fantastic work!

One challenge I face as an MGV is one we may share. It’s tough to pack everything in, as I suffer from the ‘curse of the poor’ (full-time work). If you’re similarly cursed, I have a suggestion. Become a Board member! Board members qualify for MGV volunteer-hour credit and, even better, we do so in the winter when volunteer hours are especially hard to come by. Join us – we need your help, and we’re really fun, to boot!

January 2020
January 13 – Master Gardener Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Extension Office

February 2020
February 4 - Master Gardener Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Extension Office
February 22 - Master Gardener Recognition Program, 9:30 am, Extension Office

March 2020
March 6 - Master Gardener Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Extension Office
March 31 - Master Gardener Project Sign-up, 6:00 pm, Extension Office

September 2020
MGV Level 1 Training - Tell your friends!!

Haiku* for a Sheboygan County MGV
By Mark Smith

Planting bed dormant,
soil tilled, cold wind blows, bulbs rest,
patience, wait, hope springs.

* A Japanese verse form most often composed of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables.
Day of Caring...Many Hands Make Light Work

Day of Caring on Thursday, September 12, saw hundreds of volunteers from Sheboygan businesses deployed to work at various community sites, including at least 3 Master Gardener Projects—Kohler Andrae State Park, Bookworm Gardens and Meals on Wheels Vegetable Garden. Our thanks to all those volunteers who did so much hard work in our gardens.

Sheboygan County Master Gardener Board Members

President: Marty Steinbruecker
Vice-President: Christina Wilke-Burbach
Secretary: Val Gillman
Treasurer: Lynn Thornton

Board Members:
Deb Erickson
Kimm Merrill
Mark Smith

WIMGA Representative
Pat Mersberger
Who's Winning: Linda Marx vs. the Jumping Worms

Perennial Notes (Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.) September 2019

The trials of a Madison gardener whose garden has been taken over by jumping worms. It's war, folks, and the weapons are few and puny. Her tactics include picking worms and disposing of them in plastic containers and application of Early Bird fertilizer. You can read all about it here, starting on page 4…

Put Sponges to Work.

Garden Gate Magazine Jan/Feb 2020

Don’t throw out those old sponges that are accumulating under the kitchen sink. Instead put two or three in the bottom of pot (cut into pieces, if needed) before adding soil to improve water retention for moisture loving plants.

New Use for Old Socks.

Fine Gardening, February 2020

Have a hole in the bottom of a sock? Don’t throw it away. Cut off the toe and slip it over your hand to protect your arm while weeding or pruning brambles. No more scratches. Can be tossed or laundered. A great way to reuse.

The Forgotten Pollinators

Garden Gate Magazine, Jan/Feb 2020

When you think of pollinators you probably think of bees and butterflies. But they are not the only pollinators that matter. Here are 5 insects you should never kill.

- Common black ant… these nectar lovers pollinate pumpkins, marigolds and green-and-golds
- Flower fly… these flies which often mimic bees and wasps forage a wide variety of plants, especially asters, milkweed, roses and alyssum
- Goldenrod soldier beetle… often seen on goldenrod and many other fall and late summer flowers, larva live in soil and eat other insects
- Lady beetle… is often called a gardener’s best friend because it devours mites, thrips, aphids and whiteflies. While feeding the lady beetle moves pollen from flower to flower. Prefer plants with flat flowers like caraway, coreopsis, dill, and marigolds.
- Mud dauber wasp… as a solitary wasp it has no nest to protect and seldom stings. They are attracted to the color yellow, so look for them on dill, goldenrod and raspberries.
Gifts for Gardeners

Gift Certificate from a Local Nursery
We have many great nurseries and garden centers in the area and any gardener will be thrilled to get a gift certificate to buy plants, or seeds or fertilizer or tools or garden tchotchkes. Can’t lose with this gift.

Women’s Insulated Quilted Barn Vest
From: Land’s End $79.95 and up
The synthetic insulation in this vest is created of %100 from recycled plastic. The water-resistant finish will keep you cozy even if it gets wet. Your body will be warm and your arms free to garden comfortably in spring and fall. Wear over a toasty layer and you will be ready for a February or March pruning mission. Machine washable. Available in solid colors, prints and plus sizes.

Dramm Garden Hose, Nozzle or Sprinkler
From: Many local dealers Prices vary
This Manitowoc based manufacturer makes a full line of commercial and consumer garden watering tools. Go purple, go orange, go red, go wild and mix and match these colorful gardening must haves. They are sure to brighten even the drearier days in your garden. Available at Caan’s, Superior Landscape, Kohler Gardener, Home Depot and other area businesses. Also available online.

Garden Bandit Precise Weeder
From: Jung Seed Co. $14.95
In bright red or yellow this nifty weeder would make a great stocking stuffer. Its sharp, looped, stainless steel blade cuts through compacted soil easily, aerating the soil without displacing it. Great for weeding tight spaces.

Deer Resistant Design: Fence Free Gardens that Thrive Despite Deer
Online From: Amazon or Barnes & Noble Deer are one of the most common and frustrating problems a gardener can face. Each chapter of this book takes you to a different deer resistant garden and includes the gardener’s strategies for keeping deer away. The many photos show just how beautiful a garden can be even with deer in the neighborhood.

Intervale Seed Planter and Spacing Ruler
From: Gardener’s Supply $12.95
Get your plants in just the right place with this 20-inch pine ruler. A hole drilled every inch helps you mark the spot to plant your garlic bulbs or make a hole for seeds. A birch dibble fits through the hole to make an indentation to drop your seeds into. Takes the guesswork out of planting.

Faux Rocks
From: Gardener’s Supply $69.95 and up
Sometimes there is something in your garden that you would just rather not look at. If you are lucky it’s the right size and shape to be hidden under a rock…a mock rock, that is.
2020 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
  tclaerbout@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 -**
  Doris Weber
  467-3266
  doris@johngweber.com
  Connie Gross
  400-1273
  bernice627@aol.com
  Sally Neuhaus
  838-3014
  sallyneuhaus@gmail.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.

(OVER)
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2020 Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Short Course

Week 1 - Friday, February 7 - 1:00 pm

♦ Advancing Tree Risk Mitigation Through Basic Tree Care
  Providing basic tree care reduces the threat to long term tree health. Which practices help ensure healthy trees?
  
  Rich Hauer, Professor, UW-Stevens Point

♦ Abiotic Turf issues and Glyphosate Alternatives
  Know the clues to sort through whether turf issues are biotic or abiotic. How effective are Glyphosate alternatives?
  
  Paul Koch, UW-Madison Extension Turfgrass Specialist

Week 2 - Friday, February 14 - 1:00 pm

♦ Managing Wildlife in the Landscape
  Wildlife management involves the manipulation of habitat and populations to achieve a desired goal. The goal may be to increase a particular wildlife population or to decrease a wildlife population that is causing excessive damage. Gain insights into useful strategies.
  
  David Drake, UW-Madison Extension Wildlife Specialist

♦ The Big Chill: Cold Temperature Effects on Plants and How to Avoid Damage
  Learn about standard practices to mitigate the impacts of cold temperatures on landscape plants.
  
  Laura Jull, UW-Madison Extension Woody Plants Specialist

Week 3 - Friday, February 21 - 1:00 pm

♦ Working Backwards: Understanding Clues from Plant Damage to Identify Insect Pests
  Insect feeding damage to plants can tell us much about the pests we are dealing with. Learn about what the clues are telling us.
  
  PJ Liesch, UW-Madison Extension Entomologist

♦ Landscape Plants for Shade
  Right Plant Right Place.
  
  Dave Warnier, Horticulturist in Charge, Boerner Botanical Gardens

Week 4 - Friday, February 28 - 1:00 pm

♦ New and Upcoming Herbaceous Perennials
  Current trends in herbaceous plants and new plants for a wide range of garden applications.
  
  Nancy Nedwick, Owner, The Flower Factory, Stoughton

♦ New and Emerging Landscape Plant Diseases
  The impact of plant diseases can be very significant. Learn about new and emerging landscape plant diseases to be on the lookout for.
  
  Brian Hudelson, Director, Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, UW-Madison

Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers
2020 Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Short Course

Name:______________________________________________________________
E-mail:____________________________________________________________________
Address:____________________________________________________________________
City________________________ State:______ Zip:__________ Phone:________________________

Registration Requested by January 31 or Call (920) 459-8904.
Make checks payable to: Extension Sheboygan County.  Course Location: Extension

Mail to: Extension Sheboygan County
      5 University Drive
      Sheboygan, Wi 53081

       $25.00 (per person all 4 sessions)  
       $5.00 Week 1  
       $5.00 Week 2  
       $5.00 Week 3  
       $8.00 Week 4

Total—$__________

Master Gardener Volunteers - Winter 2019