



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

 Extension Sheboygan County
 5 University Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53081 · (920) 459-5904

Sheboygan County Master Gardener



President's Message

Hello Master Gardener Volunteers,

Thanks to all who “zoomed” in for our annual meeting on Thursday, September 24th. For those who were unable to attend, watch for the minutes that will be emailed to you. The members approved the increase in dues to \$20.00. Our bylaws were revised, and include a new level of membership, “Honorary Life Members.” More details can be found in this newsletter.

Welcome to Stephanie Larson, our new board member and Val Gillman, our current secretary, elected to a second term. Our next “virtual” board meeting will be on Monday, October 12 at 6 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend, just let Tammy or I know to make sure you receive the Zoom link for the meeting.

Thank you to Mark Smith for his service on the MGV Board. Mark was instrumental in obtaining a grant for \$5,000 to aid in the removal of trees affected by the emerald ash borer at the UW-Sheboygan Campus.

The state master gardener organization has changed the timeline for recording volunteer hours and continuing education hours. The hours now need to be recorded by December 31st. That provides extra time to get your continuing education completed. For this year, the requirement to acquire 24 hours of volunteer hours has been waved due to the pandemic, but you should still record the hours if you were able to participate in any of the approved MGV projects.

I love change of seasons, but am adjusting to the shorter daylight hours. It is just barely light at 6 am, and if I want to sit outside in the evening, I need to get out earlier and earlier. It's a great time to get out and walk on those crisp mornings and watch the leaves change color.

Stay safe and healthy,

Marty Steinbruecker
MGV Board President



Honorary Life Members Membership

As part of our bylaws revision, a new category was created just for Sheboygan County Master Gardeners. The information below is taken directly from our bylaws and lists the qualifications. As an honorary life member, you will be able to participate in education and social activities and receive email communications from our local organization. You will also be able to participate in our county master gardener projects with the requirements listed below. You will not receive any information from our state organization. Members interested in this membership level are encouraged to self nominate. Tammy will be putting together a form to make the nomination process easy. Board members will be happy to answer any questions you have.

Honorary Life Members: Any member of the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers Association, who has maintained active membership as a Master Gardener Volunteer for 20 or more years and has rendered outstanding service to this association and the community, or any member of

this association who has maintained active membership for 15 or more years and is at least 70 years of age may be granted Honorary Life Membership.

Honorary Life Members are entitled to receive digital communications and to participate in educational activities and programs offered by the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteer association. Association membership dues are paid annually. Honorary Life Members, forgo voting rights, however are welcome to participate in Master Gardener Volunteer projects when conducted in cooperation with existing Master Gardener Volunteers in "Good Standing". Individuals wishing "Honorary Life Member" designation may either self-nominate or be nominated by an active MGVA association member.

The Master Gardener Volunteers Board of Directors, by a majority vote of the board, reserves the right to confer the Honorary Life Member designation.

Attention Project Leaders

This stone is available to place at your project. If this is something you would like to use, please contact Marty Steinbruecker to make arrangements for delivery. The stone measures 9"x15"x 3".



AVAILABLE

Caan's Holiday Fundraiser

The holidays are right around the corner! Do you usually buy a poinsettia or a fresh evergreen wreath for your porch? Would you consider giving a Caan's gift card as a holiday present? If so, consider participating in our MGV Fundraiser through Caan Floral in Sheboygan.

Items that can be purchased through the Caan Floral Voucher Program include wreaths (16" to 36"), other door or porch decorations, and poinsettias (4.5" to 8.5" pots). If you buy an item you will receive a Voucher for that item. You can also sell vouchers to family, friends and neighbors.

Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers will receive 20-30% of the purchase price of the Voucher items. Vouchers will be redeemable at Caan's from November 23rd through December 15th. Vouchers will be honored after December 15th, however, Caan's cannot guarantee that a specific product/color will be available after that date.

Caan's gift cards in the amount of \$15, \$25, and \$50 will also be available for purchase. Gift cards are redeemable at any time and there is no expiration date. Our organization will receive 10% of each gift card purchased.

All order forms will be due to Tammy Zorn at the Extension Office by Monday, October 12th. Please write this date on your order form. You can mail order forms with your payment to Tammy or drop them off in the dropbox outside of the Extension Office.

Vouchers and gift cards will be dropped off at your home by Debi Erickson or Lynn Thornton during the week of November 2nd. We will contact you to be sure that you will be at home. If you have questions, contact Lynn at... lynnthornton2001@yahoo.com

[Caan's Holiday Fundraiser Order Form](#)
[Caan's Evergreens](#)
[Caan's Poinsettias](#)



Project Reports

Plank Road Trail Head Project...Val Gillman
Greenbush trail head has a newly planted entry.

Volunteers planted juniper, grasses and meadow flowers below the entry sign. Special thanks to Moraine Gardens for supplying the plants at cost



and also for donating a bag of fertilizer for planting. Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department picked up the cost of the plants. Volunteers for this summer at Greenbush and Plymouth trailheads are Terri Lohr, Joanne Wieland, Lori Epping and Val Gillman.

New Garden at UW-S Campus...Sherry Speth

When you drive by the UW-S Administrator's Office on your way to Bookworm Gardens or the Fine Arts parking lot, you may have noticed changes to the raised bed garden located outside the office. If you haven't seen it yet, we encourage you to do so because the bed is unique for the campus.

For many years the raised bed had been neglected. The evergreens that had been planted in it had become over-grown obstructing the view of those wanting to back out of the office's parking area. As a result, and about three years ago, the Administrator had the evergreens cut off at the ground surface, and the box remained empty. It was a pretty ugly site. This Summer, with a little prodding and begging from the UW-S Volunteer Landscape Group, the maintenance crew removed most of the remaining evergreen stumps.

Project Reports

(continued)

With the stumps removed, the volunteer group discovered that the box soil consisted of a mix of gravel and clay, probably left over from construction. Any new garden would require removal and replacement of the existing soil at a significant cost. Rather than pursuing that effort and expense, the group decided to use the box for a new rock garden. With the significant amount of gravel already in the box, the soil was already well drained and just needed a little more sand/compost mix to replace some of the clay and bring the soil level up to the bottom of the ledge. Serenity Farms provided the mix at a reduced price because the UW-S maintenance crew was willing to pick it up and deliver it right to the spot. The UW-S Volunteer Landscape Group removed some of the existing clay and mixed the new soil into the remaining existing soil and let it settle for a week.

The new bed was planted with "rock garden" plants requiring drought conditions to prosper. Some of the plants were donated from my home rock garden. Other were obtained at very reduced prices from the Flower Factory located in Stoughton, WI. Unfortunately, the Flower Factory went out of business this Summer and the plants were close-outs. They will be missed as a source of wonderful perennials of all kinds. For \$25, we were able to load up on a variety of rock garden plants for the new bed. Finally, nine blue fescue grasses and a couple miniature conifers were purchased from Caans which added texture to the garden.

The new garden was topped off with a pea gravel mulch. Jim Burkard picked up 24 bags of pea gravel from Home Depot. The group volunteered their time for a couple planting days and later spread the pea gravel mulch. A pail of Mississippi river rock was donated to make a dry stream bed, and Lori Walker donated several larger rocks from her farm. We did water the plants initially, but because this is a rock garden it has not needed water since. With a little periodic weeding, it should remain a low maintenance garden.

The garden is still very young, but we hope you will stop by and enjoy it.



In the photo: Tony Fortuna, Beth Friedl & friend Karen, Sherry Speth

Big Spring Ahead for Rain Gardens at KASP Sanderling Nature Center...Sue Mathews

The rain gardens are just one aspect of the gardens at Kohler Andrae State Park. The others are the Entrance Sign Garden and the beds of the Office and Pond Garden. Kris Bemis, Stephanie Larson, and park volunteer Jeffrey have worked with me to make the sign and office/pond gardens vibrant places that welcome visitors to the Park.

The rain gardens were first planted in 2010 and they have always been a maintenance challenge. The hardest thing about gardening in KASP is keeping the Park out of the gardens. By that I mean the deer and the natural and unnatural vegetation of the greater Park (milkweed, goldenrod, spotted knapweed, horsetail, garlic mustard, creeping Charlie, dandelions, thistles, raspberry, nettles, houndstongue, beach grass, etc.). You name it we've weeded it. Two years ago, after some nearby trees were removed, all hell broke loose as even more undesirables encroached. This fall KASP staff use brush killer on the northern section of the rain garden and we expect to replant in the spring.

Project Reports

(continued)

I've included a photo of the garden as it looks now... dead, as well as a photo of the southern section of the rain garden which (while also challenging) has been easier to keep viable. There is also a photo of a beautiful stand of New England Aster with monarch butterfly (taken 10/4) at the Pond Garden.



Requests from Sue Mathews

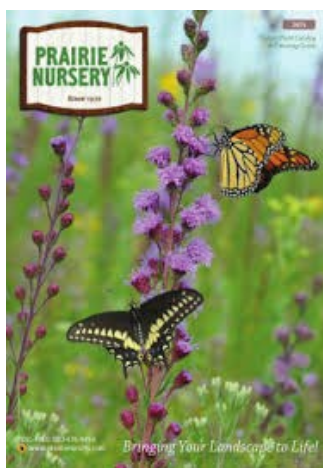
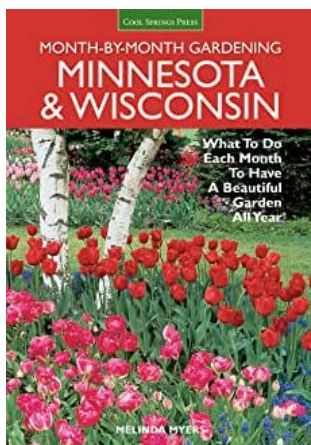
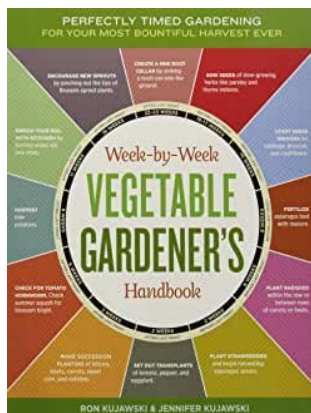
If you are interested in working on the rain garden renovation please contact me. We will be doing some planning this winter and planting in spring or early summer.

I am also looking for someone who would like to apprentice with me to take over this project in the next year or two. Again, contact me. I am at...sukarma2@yahoo.com. I'd be happy to talk to you about either of these projects.

If you would like to tell a story about your project. Send it to me and I will include it in a future newsletter. The next one will probably come out in December

Continuing Education Hours

By Sue Mathews



Since the deadline for reporting continuing education credits is now December 31, you still have plenty of time to get 10 hours in.

Unfortunately, COVID 19 required that we and other Master Gardener groups cancel our usual group meetings with speakers. But there are still lots of ways to learn new things and complete your continuing education requirement.

Reading is Fundamental... We have great libraries in Sheboygan County and they have loads of books on all kinds of gardening topics. Plus, they subscribe to magazines such as *Garden Gate*, *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, *Northern Gardener*, etc.

We also have an unparalleled source of science-based information in our UW Extension gardening publications. You can access them through [The Learning Store](#).

The key to using written materials is to read with a purpose. You're not just there to look at the pretty pictures...fun though that is. Read books, magazine articles and UW publications about gardening topics that interest you or topics that you don't know much about. A book doesn't have to be read cover to cover to learn a lot. It just matters that you learn something.

Do you have a perennial garden? Check out *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* or *The Perennial Care Manual*, look up the plants in your garden and plan the best care for them next season.

Look over *Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook* or Melinda Myers' *Month-By-Month Gardening Minnesota and Wisconsin* and mark your 2021 tasks on a calendar. You'll get more done right that way.

The Internet... Sheboygan County Master Gardeners has a Facebook page. I follow a few useful garden Facebook pages and often repost articles of interest. Some of my favorites that you will see if you follow us are *Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society*, *Garden Answer*, *The Creative Vegetable Gardener*, *Garden Gate Magazine Garden Club*, *The Wisconsin Vegetable Gardener*, *Niki Jabbour*, some UW pages and a few more. Many of these Facebook pages connect to the gardener's webpage where more information is available.

Continuing Education Hours

(continued)

Our Facebook page is just the beginning. There are many great websites run by seed and plant companies, universities, botanical gardens, garden groups, etc. Check out GardensAlive.com, ProvenWinners.com, PrairieNursery.com, Johnny'sSeeds.com. Check out the [University of Minnesota Extension Yard and Garden](http://UniversityofMinnesotaExtensionYardandGarden) page and [Chicago Botanic Garden Plant Evaluations](http://ChicagoBotanicGardenPlantEvaluations). Lots of good stuff there. GOOGLE IS YOUR FRIEND.

YouTube is a great way to spend a few hours surfing gardening videos. I am always surprised at how well gardeners do when they put on a show.

[Megan Cain](#) (Madison's Creative Vegetable Gardener and a favorite speaker) has many instructive videos on YouTube as do many other regional gardeners. Need info on pruning roses, on planting garlic, on composting, seed saving, or Japanese beetles. They are all over YouTube and a video is worth a thousand words.

As with everything on the internet, know your source and stick to those you know are reliable. There is a lot of quack gardening information out in the world and it shows up on the internet, too.

Podcasts...If you like to hear people talk about gardening...look for podcasts. Start with *Garden*

Talk on Wisconsin Public Radio with Larry Meiller. This show broadcasts at 11 a.m. on Friday morning and is rebroadcast at 6 a.m. on Saturday morning on WPR's Ideas Networks stations. Podcasts of the broadcasts can be located [here](#). This show originates in Madison and draws on expert guests discussing timely topics. You can listen online or download the podcast to a device and listen while you are gardening, or driving, or taking a walk.

Other podcasts of garden interest can be found in [Top 20 Podcasts to Listen To](#).

Every now and then you will hear about a Zoom lecture. Take advantage of them. I have listened to talks by Megan Cain and UW experts P.J. Liesch (Japanese beetles) and Brian Hudelson (plant diseases). If you can't Zoom In, check on YouTube. The UW lectures seem to be up for about a week and you can view them. Then they seem to disappear.

I hope these suggestions will help you learn something new about your garden and fulfill your continuing education hours. And don't forget to report your hours on [the Master Gardener Program Online Reporting System](#).

Fall and Winter Tasks in the Garden

By Sue Mathews

Know Your First Frost Date...Average first frost near the lake is October 18-20, in western Sheboygan it is October 4-10

Take a Walk Around Your Neighborhood or Through a Public Garden...Look at what looks great at this time of year. What is still blooming, has berries, has beautiful color or is aging gracefully. Take photos and notes and use the winter to plan an upgrade to the interest of your fall garden.



Bring in your House Plants...If all your houseplants spent summer luxuriating in the sun, rain and fresh air of the outdoor life now is the time to bring

them back inside for the winter. Keep an eye on the weather forecast. As temperatures head toward 40 degrees it's time to get those plants moving in so they can acclimate to the indoors before the furnace starts blasting them. As you bring them in check everything...for bugs, for root issues, for aesthetic appeal, for damage to pots. Try not to repot unless absolutely necessary. Put them where the light is right. And stage them for months of winter enjoyment. (*Fine Gardening*, Dec 2020)

Plant a Cover Crop...Planting your veggie plot with a cover crop builds nutrient-rich soil for spring planting. Timing is critical to plant late in our growing



Fall and Winter Tasks in the Garden

(continued)

season. Work back from your first frost date and count back to choose from numerous options...field peas, barley, oats crimson clover, and others. Benefits of cover crops include boosted fertility, improved soil texture (including mycorrhizal fungi associated with plant roots), erosion prevention, moisture absorption and weed/disease/insect protection. It may be too late now, but plan for next year. (*Fine Gardening*, Dec 2020 and *Mother Earth News*, Oct/Nov 2020)

Build Your Soil... You may not be up to planting a cover crop but you can still improve the soil in your garden this fall. Add shredded leaves to your raised beds and vegetable plots. Chopped leaves will lighten heavy soil, feed the worms, add nutrients and help absorb moisture. Partially composted manures (from chickens, cows, horses, and sheep) can be applied to soil in the fall. In spring use fully composted manures. Several inches of home-made compost can be spread on top of vegetable beds now. Worms and other organisms will slowly work it into the soil. (*Horticulture*, Sep/Oct 2020)

Plant Garlic (and Shallots)... Garlic is a common crop to plant in fall. But you can also plant shallot sets in fall for harvest



in early to midsummer. Plant each bulb about two inches deep with the pointy tip just sticking out of the soil. Water well and mulch with shredded leaves. (This hint is from Niki Jabbour who gardens in zone 6b Halifax, Nova Scotia) *Horticulture*, Sep/Oct 2020)

Note from Sue: I planted shallots from my summer harvest along with my garlic and will be interested to see what happens. Hoping for a mild winter.

Plant Spring Blooming Bulbs, Trees, Bargain Perennials...AND Seeds... Yes, fall is a good time to plant some seeds. The goal is not to have them sprouting in fall, but to give them a period of stratification (cold, moist weather) which some seeds require to germinate. You can collect seed from plants already in your or a friend's garden or purchase some. Wait until after the first killing frost, but before the ground freezes. Plant seeds at the depth recommended on a seed package or lightly cover with fine soil or compost. Not every plant is suitable for this technique. Here are a few that work: Black-eyed Susan, Scabiosa, Penstemon, Helianthus, Prairie coneflower, Purple coneflower, Perennial geranium, Wild columbine and Verbena bonariensis. Any flower that self seeds in your garden can be directed to another area.

Membership Renewal Form

Plan to renew your Master Gardener membership for 2021. Please submit to Tammy Zorn by December 1, 2020.

Thank you for your contributions to the Master Gardener Program.

Name(s) _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

_____ 2021 Membership Dues x \$20.00 = _____

Make checks payable to: Sheboygan County Master Gardeners

Mail to: Extension Sheboygan County

Attn: Tammy Zorn

5 University Drive

Sheboygan, WI 53081

If questions concerning dues, please contact Tammy Zorn.

Call Tammy Zorn at 459-5904 or e-mail at: tammy.zorn@wisc.edu

