



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Extension Sheboygan County  
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# Sheboygan County Master Gardener



## Hello Master Gardener Volunteers!

By Christina Wilke-Burbach, Vice President, Sheboygan County  
Master Gardeners

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as a Member of the Sheboygan County Board of Directors and current Vice President. I have been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2016. I took the courses with my husband, Bill. We thought it would be a fun bonding experience. We garden at home together and volunteer at John Michael Kohler Arts Center Indoor Garden together. I am the project chair of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center Indoor Gardens, and my husband is my co-chair. I am also a docent (art tour guide) at the Arts Center. We are so lucky to have such a world class arts center in Sheboygan.

My mother and grandfather were both avid gardeners and have largely influenced me. About 15 years ago I lived on a 200-acre farm in the middle of rural Wisconsin. That time immersed in nature changed my life. Nature and plants are very important to me both personally and professionally. I am a Certified Aromatherapist, Herbalist, Natural Perfumer, a Botanical Artist, and supporter of organic farming and non-GMOS. I am a Member of the American Botanical Council and the American Herbalist Guild. I have taught Continuing Education Gardening Classes at University of Wisconsin Green Bay. I have taught an herbal medicine certification series for eight years. I have a PhD in Health Psychology and own a women's wellness and holistic healing business in Sheboygan: Mind, Soul, and Self LLC.

I live in Sheboygan with my husband, 2 dogs, and cat. We currently have 20 gardens at our house that I created and maintained. We live on a quarter acre. When we bought our house 4 years ago, it was a blank slate with no gardens or landscaping at all. I specialize in Heirloom plants and Gothic Gardening (black/dark plants and dramatic/bold design). Gothic gardening is

## Mark Your Calendar

### ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

October 7, 2021  
Sheboygan Yacht Club Pavilion  
6:00 p.m.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wisconsin Horticulture Update, Fridays at 9:30a.m.

Tune into the Wisconsin Horticulture Update on most Fridays during the growing season. **Sign up for weekly reminders** and have the connection information emailed right to you each week (recommended): <https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1945894/1785948/>

You can also find the link to connect each Friday in our [Canvas Classroom](#).

**Each WHU = 1 hour of continuing education**

inspired by the dark, bold, brooding, dramatic, and moody Gothic gardens popular in the Victorian era. Flowers and plants are unique, striking, bold and often black, red, or purple.



Goth Gardening is an art form and wonderful way to express oneself. The gardens that I am the proudest of include my 4 gothic gardens and poison garden. I am very interested in unusual, rare, and bold plants. A goal of mine is to have our gardens included in the garden walk in a few years (still more work to do).

# Kohler Andrae State Park Project

By Sue Mathews

I became a Master Gardener in 2007 and signed up to volunteer at the Kohler Andrae State Park. I chose the park mainly because I lived near South High School, and it was just a quick drive away. There was no project leader, so I became it.

It's been an interesting 15 years, a lot of hard work, and a tremendous learning experience. We have three gardens at the park. The Pond Garden and it's satellites at the park office/entrance. The Rain Garden at the Sanderling Nature Center and the Sign Garden which is the first thing you see as you approach the park.

All three gardens suffer from one big issue. It's very hard to keep the Park's flora and fauna out of our gardens. Milkweed and goldenrod overtake parts of the Pond Garden. Invasive horsetail (probably introduced via mulch) is impossible to clear away. Errant grasses and thistles and who knows what else infest the Rain Garden. And deer don't know the meaning of deer resistant plants.

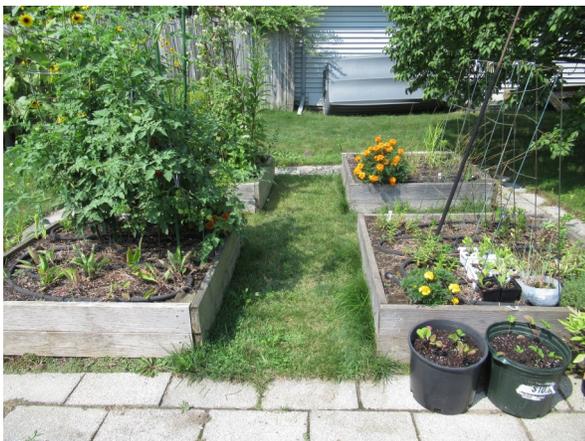
This year we have had a couple of major projects to work on at KASP. Removal of a diseased juniper by the pond left a 10 square foot space to be weeded, planted, and mulched. I have planted the space with native plants and, while the deer have kept their sampling to a minimum, there are weeds I have never seen before. But there are desirable natives volunteering as well. And in one area of the garden all the plants that were there last year seem to have disappeared!! Was it deer or something on two legs?

The biggest project is a complete renovation of half of the Rain Garden, approximately 300 square feet.

Of course, there is no real budget. So, this spring I decided to grow some native plants from seed using a new growing technique called winter sowing, wherein you plant seeds in a milk jug, set it out in the yard and let the snow, rain, heat, and cold drive the germination and growth of the plants. Natives are ideal for this technique as most self-sow in our climate and growing them in jugs is just a controlled replication of nature. However, early this spring it became obvious that my plants would not be ready to plant in late spring and I needed to protect the rain garden bed after the old plants were eliminated to make space for new plants. I decided to plant some annual rye grass as a cover crop which will need to be killed off in summer, because it can't be relied on to die back after a lakeshore winter. However, it will provide a good, mulched area to plant my natives in the fall. Also, it will provide cover for an over seeding of a variety of native grasses to help fill in the area. Still much to do this fall. In a gardener hope springs eternal.

The photos are of the newly planted Pond Garden bed and the plants I raised though winter sowing. Everything in the raised beds (except the tomatoes and marigolds) are natives that I grew from plugs or from winter sowing.

**I am hoping that someone would like to take over leadership of this project. Please don't be scared off. It's a challenge, but interesting and satisfying. And I love being part of the great KASP community. I want to continue to work in the garden and I'll be around to guide your first steps. Please contact me if you are interested: [sukarma2@yahoo.com](mailto:sukarma2@yahoo.com)**



# Master Gardener Volunteers at Pine Haven

By Val Gillman

This spring, Michelle Wappler, from Pine Haven Christian Communities contacted me to see if Master Gardeners would be interested in conducting a planting session with residents. The facility has a beautiful courtyard with several raised beds and planters. Many of the residents spend their days in the courtyard and love the idea of having some fresh produce to pick and snack on.



On June 7, armed with our garden tools, Barb Marten, Barb Retlich, Laura Drew, and I assisted several of the residents in planting their beds. Michelle, purchased a variety of vegetable plants, including tomatoes, peppers, and kohlrabi. To go along with the veggies, she had an

assortment of flowering plants, as well as seeds. We spent the afternoon planning and planting. They asked us for recommendations for next year and we provided some suggestions on improving the soil.



I stopped in at Pine Haven toward the end of July and residents were enjoying the radishes, cherry tomatoes, kohlrabi as well as enjoying the flowers. Michelle was so happy with the results that she asked if it would come back next year.



# Maywood Environmental Park Prairie Walks

By Karen Merlau

Maywood Environmental Park, in Sheboygan, initiated a new Prairie Walk program for the public, which premiered this summer (2021). I am a Wisconsin Master Gardener and Wisconsin Master Naturalist and lead these walks.



I am also helping the park staff create informational prairie plant signs that are posted along the prairie trails.

The Prairie Walks were well attended and informational. And, if you couldn't attend any of the walks, be sure to check the Maywood calendar for next summer's Prairie Walk schedule.

I enjoy leading walks like this and also conduct two walks at Kohler Andrae State Park, the Discovering Wildflower Hike, and the Woodland Walk.

The Maywood Prairie Walks, Kohler Andre State Park Woodland Walks, and Wildflower Hikes are free, although donations are welcomed.



# Campus Garden Tour

Sherry Speth, Sheboygan County MG, Honorary Life Member, gives tour of Campus gardens to Lakeshore Garden Club members.



# Let's Eat

By Lynn Thornton

It's that time of the year when our vegetable gardens are overflowing with ripe veggies. I want to share a few of my favorite recipes that allow me to enjoy food that I grew in my garden all year long.

## Rosemary Salt

A large bunch of fresh rosemary  
Kosher salt



Wash and dry the rosemary. Take the leaves off the stem (hold the top of the stem with your left hand; starting at the top, run your right thumb and index finger down the stem to easily remove the leaves). Chop the leaves and measure them with a measuring cup. Add the same amount of salt and mix both together. Thinly spread the mixture on parchment paper on a large baking pan. Bake in a 200-degree oven for 2 hours, stirring after an hour. Chop the cooled salt mixture in a food processor if you want it to be a fine grain salt. Store in a covered glass jar in a cool dry place.



## Panko Crusted Chicken Breast Tenders

1 pk chicken breast tenders (or chicken breasts cut into long thin strips)  
1 ½ cups plain panko breadcrumbs  
¼ cup freshly grated parmesan cheese  
¼ cup melted butter  
Rosemary Salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a 11x15 baking pan with foil.

In a pie pan or shallow dish combine panko crumbs and parmesan cheese. Dip each chicken tender in melted butter, then dip in panko coating, covering all sides. Lay in pan leaving space between tenders. Lightly sprinkle each chicken tender with a small amount of rosemary salt.

Bake for 22-25 min. for tenders; 25-30 min. for breasts cut into strips.

## Tomato Sauce

I learned how to process my Amish paste tomatoes from Megan Cain (The Creative Vegetable Gardener) so that I have them ready to use in my chest freezer all winter. It's super easy! Chop up the tomatoes (leave the skin on and the seeds in or take the seeds out if you want). Put them in a heavy pan and cook them down until it resembles tomato sauce – about one hour. Allow it to cool completely before you put it into freezer safe containers (I use freezer safe wide-mouth pint canning jars). I love to make homemade pasta sauce with these tomatoes because I can make it the way I like it!



## Make-It-Your-Way Pasta Sauce

1 pint jar of tomato sauce (serves 2-3) – thawed  
Olive oil (about 2-3 tablespoons)  
1 small onion chopped  
1-2 fresh garlic cloves chopped or crushed  
1 tsp dried oregano (or basil)  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Optional: fresh or frozen vegetables such as peppers, carrots, zucchini, spinach, etc.  
Pasta – cook while making the sauce

Add oil to a heavy pan and heat on medium. Add onion and stir until it is translucent. Add garlic and stir for 1-2 minutes. Add the dried oregano and stir for about 30 seconds. Add the thawed tomato sauce. Heat on medium-low until the sauce is thickened and bubbly (about 20-25 min). Add any veggies that you want and continue heating just until they are tender.

Add cooked pasta to the pan of sauce; stir to coat the pasta.

# Tidbits from My Reading

By Sue Mathews

**The Pollinator Victory Garden...How to Attract and Support Bees, Beetles, Butterflies, Bat, and Other Pollinators.**  
2020, Kim Eirman

Creating habitat for egg laying and nesting is a critical aspect of having a pollinator friendly garden. We all know that monarchs need milkweed and swallowtails love dill for their egg laying and caterpillar feeding. When you see another butterfly in your garden check online to see what that butterfly prefers as a larval host and try to incorporate it into your garden.

But what about native bees? What do they need for egg laying and nesting? All our native bees build nests except cuckoo bees which lay their eggs in another bee's nest. Most are solitary and nest alone, with the exception of bumble bees which nest in small colonies of 40-400.

Female native bees build and provision nests for their young...either in the ground or in cavities. Seventy percent of native bees are ground nesters. The other 30 percent (including bumble bees) are cavity nesters.

Dense brush piles are a good potential habitat for bumble bees. If you don't have brush piles in your habitat and you have an out of the way spot, create them. They don't need to be big; but they need to be dense and tight to shelter bees from the rain.

Ground nesters need easy access to soil to excavate their nests. Preserve or create patches of bare soil in a sunny spot. Just a few square feet are all it takes. Sandy or loam soils are preferred in a sunny, quiet location. If bare soil offends you, plant it sparsely. Keep it undisturbed with no tilling or cleaning up -- even in the off season. Think of it as a wild habitat that may support hundreds of bees underground.

Cavity nesters use a variety of resources for their nests. Many like pre-existing cavities such as abandoned beetle tunnels in fallen logs, hollow trees, gaps in stone walls, dense brush piles and plant debris. Some bees nest in plant stems.

Stems from plants like elderberry, raspberry, hydrangea and Joe Pye weed are useful to some cavity nesters. Leave these stems in place over winter or collect and bundle them for bee habitats.

Man-made shelters for cavity nesters can be made or purchased. Wood blocks or logs drilled with holes in a variety of sizes are called nest boxes. Bundles of hollow stems can also provide space for nesting bees. There is some art and science involved in building these habitats and keeping them sanitary.

Check out ["Tunnel Nests for Native Bees: Nest Construction and Management"](#) from the Xerxes Society. While you are there check out the best internet site on protecting native pollinators.

Your pollinator palaces probably won't be as fancy as this from the Royal Chelsea Flower Show.



## From My Personal Experience

I have helianthus and ratibida plants that get 6-foot tall in my garden and by midsummer they have begun to sprawl. They outgrow any supports I install in the spring; and eventually, they must have more support. To the rescue...bungee cords. Used by themselves or supported by stakes (usually prunings from my garden) bungee cords help to keep these big, tall plants upright enough to keep them buzzing with pollinators. Bungees on helianthus on right and ratibida (supported by ninebark prunings) on left. The colors may not please you, but I found olive green bungees with gold dots for next season.



Ratibida



Helianthus

## Continued from Page One



I have a brand-new radio show called “Garden Goth” that will be premiering this fall on Mead Public Library’s new radio station. It will be a gardening and music show. Interest in gardening has risen in the past year due to the pandemic. People are spending more time at home, have more free time, and want to become more self-sufficient and sustainable. The ideas behind the gardening radio show is to provide gardening tips to many of these beginner gardeners, to hopefully inspire people to start a garden who have not gardened before, and to expose people to new ideas, plants, and gardening concepts. I am also trying to recruit and engage younger, and more diverse gardeners in Sheboygan County. I am hoping a music-based gardening show is a way to reach younger and more diverse gardeners.

All the vegetables and herbs I grow are heirloom and I seed save every year. An heirloom is generally considered something worth passing down. An heirloom seed, therefore, is seed from a plant that has been passed from one generation to another, carefully grown and saved because it is considered valuable. The value could lie in its flavor, productivity, hardiness, color, or adaptability. In the last century, 94 percent of our seed varieties have disappeared due to the focus of biotech chemical companies, grocery stores, big agriculture, and the food industry on a handful of mass-produced varieties. By growing heirlooms, we can preserve diversity and defend the future of food, plants, and nature. Without seed diversity, crop diseases rise, and famines happen. Mono gardening is also terrible for the environment, and it disturbs the ecological balance. Heirlooms are diverse, hardy, disease resistant, attract wildlife and pollinators, have rich flavor, and high level of antioxidants and nutrients. We grow 5 varieties of black tomatoes, purple tomatoes, black peppers, black radishes, black carrots, black lettuce, red lettuce, blue corn, black corn, purple kale, purple brussels sprouts, and pink celery. I never wanted to live a boring life and that includes my garden! Thank you for giving me this opportunity to introduce myself to you! Happy gardening!

## Calling All Future MGV Board Members!

**W**e have three openings on our MGV Board. Board members whose terms expire in September are Deb Erickson, Christina Wilke-Burbach and Kimm Merrill. Deb and Christina have agreed to run again for their second term. They will both be on the ballot and will need to be re-elected. We are always looking for members for our board. If you have an interest in helping to guide the MGV program, please consider submitting your name by Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Any Certified Master Gardener Volunteer can be a board member. Board member terms are three years. Members are elected by ballot at the annual meeting. Please contact any board member or me if you are interested or would like more information.

Marty Steinbruecker  
MGV Board President

## Sheboygan County Master Gardener Board Members

**President:** [Marty Steinbruecker](#)  
**Vice-President:** [Christina Wilke-Burbach](#)  
**Secretary:** [Lynn Thornton](#)  
**Treasurer:** [Val Gillman](#)

**Board Members:**

[Deb Erickson](#)  
[Stephanie Larson](#)  
[Kimm Merrill](#)

**WIMGA Rep:**

[Connie Gross](#)

# 2021 Sheboygan County Fair

By Sue Droll

It must be fall because the Sheboygan County Fair has come and gone! Our theme this year was STAR SPANGLED GARDENS. We used “stars” to walk through basic gardening steps from planning and site prep to harvest and preserving.

The theme prompted interest and some questions, but many visitors were very interested in how to control and prevent Japanese beetles and other pests and diseases. We were able to field questions and distribute informational materials related to the most prevalent pests, diseases and controlling invasive species.

Our mystery plant this year was a *Cryptanthus bivittatus* aka Earth Star or Starfish Plant. It is happy in zone 10 and part of the Bromeliad family. We had a winner this year for the first time in several years. John Handy responded, Starfish Plant, and will receive a complimentary assortment of cheeses for his entry.



## 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



# Options for Membership in our Sheboygan County Master Gardener Organization

By Marty Steinbruecker



**T**here are a number of ways you can be a member of the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers.

**Certified Master Gardener Volunteer** is a volunteer who is certified by the UW-Madison Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program and is in good standing.

Annual dues are \$20.00.

## Requirements

- Completed MGV Certification Training
- Completed Criminal Background Check
- Completed Mandated Training Requirement
- Completed 24 hours of volunteer work and 10 hours of continuing education.

**Inactive Master Gardener Volunteer** is the category for Master Gardener Volunteers who have not completed their volunteer hours and education hours. This could be due to a number of events in a volunteer's life that prevents them from the ability to work on projects and/or continuing education.

## Requirements:

- Completed MGV Certification Training
- Completed Criminal Background Check
- Completed Mandated Training Requirement

While able to join our local organization, participate in local events and receive digital communications, inactive members do not have voting rights until they complete the requirements for volunteer and education hours. Annual dues are \$20.00.

**Honorary Life Member** is a new category for our local chapter. There are two ways to qualify for this membership.

## First Option

- Active membership as a Master Gardener Volunteer for 20 or more years.
- Provided outstanding service to the Master Gardener organization and the community.

## Second Option

- Age 70 or more years.
- Maintained active membership as a Master Gardener Volunteer for 15 or more years.

If you meet the requirements of either option one or two, the next step is to complete the "Honorary Life Membership Application" on our Sheboygan County Master Gardener website. Send this to Tammy Zorn at the UW-Extension Office. The current board will review the application to determine if the applicant meets the criteria above and if a majority of board members agree, you achieve the Honorary Life Member designation.

Honorary Life Members only receive digital information from our local Sheboygan Master Gardener Volunteer Organization and can participate in education events and programs, but are not part of the state organization. As an Honorary Life Member, you do not have voting rights, but you can participate in projects when working in cooperation with Certified Master Gardener Volunteers. Annual dues are \$15.00.

I hope this helps to clarify the kinds of membership choices available for our Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Zorn or Marty Steinbruecker.