



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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

# Sheboygan County Master Gardener



## Hello Master Gardener Volunteers!

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

## Featured Board Members

**G**reetings, fellow Sheboygan County MGVs! Christina Wilke-Burbach here. Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting at the Sheboygan Yacht Club. It was great to gather in person after all this time. I am looking forward to more opportunities to connect face to face as the world continues to return to a new normal. For those that were unable to attend, Mike Ballweg discussed changes to the statewide Master Gardener program. One of the primary changes is a focus on online education and online coursework vs. in-person. Stay tuned for more information as things become finalized through UW-Madison. We also had three spots up for election and re-election on the Board of Directors. I was voted in for my second 3-year term as was Deb Erickson. Debbie Ott was also voted in to fill the third open spot. Welcome Debbie! The Board then voted for officers at our October Meeting. I would like to introduce the 2021/2022 Board of Directors:

Christina Wilke-Burbach: President

Deb Erickson: Vice President

Val Gillman: Treasurer

Lynn Thornton: Secretary

Connie Gross: WIMGA Rep

Stephanie Larson: Director

Debbie Ott: Director

Marty Steinbruecker: Director

**Reminder**  
The deadline to submit your 2021 Continuing Education and Volunteer hours is **December 31st, 2021**



Christina Wilke-Burbach: President



Debbie Ott: Director

My love of flowers and learning all about them prompted me to sign up for the Master Gardener Volunteer training which I completed in the Spring of 2012. Just prior to attending my first annual meeting that September, I was encouraged to run for one of the open board positions. I found the idea appealing and was elected to my first term in 2012. I ended up serving two terms and held the Treasurer position all 6 years. Fast forward to 2021 and, once again, there was a need for a board member. So here I am again, willing to do what I can to help the program grow. I'm excited to see all the changes that are about to happen, and I hope I will be able to contribute to our program's success.



# Trees for the UW-Sheboygan Campus

By Sherry Speth, photos by Lori Walker

This fall the UW Sheboygan Garden group planted ten trees on the UW campus to replace ash trees killed by the Emerald Ash Borer Pandemic. Monies for the trees were donated by the family of Charles Bartlet, former president of Sheboygan County Master Gardeners, who passed away in 2018.

A planning committee consisting of Sherry Speth, Mike Ballweg, Paul Pinkston, Eric Aleson and Charlie Parks of Bookworm Gardens formed to evaluate tree possibilities, make decisions of the selected trees, and determine where to plant the trees.

The project was delayed until this year to permit removal of selected Ash trees and obtain the appropriate approvals.

Charlie Parks became a valuable resource on this project. Prior to him becoming Bookworms Garden and Facilities Manager, he owned a landscape company in the Chicago area. His experience and knowledge were extremely helpful in the planning effort and later when we were ready to purchase the

trees. With his connections, he was able to obtain wholesale pricing from the selected nursery, Mariani Nursery of Racine. By paying wholesale, we were able to buy more and larger trees.

By maximizing the moneys available from the Bartlet Memorial Fund we were able to purchase ten trees, 1- Bur Oak, 1-Tulip tree, 3-Baldcypress and 5-Quaking Aspen. The available moneys also allowed us to purchase the necessary deer fencing, and tree wrap.

The UW-Sheboygan Gardening Group planted the trees over a two-day period. The group included: Jim Burkard, Tony Fortuna, Maureen Gatawakas, Linda and Stan Rauwerdink, Beth Friedl, Lori Walker, Marilyn Windau, and Sherry and David Speth.

I want to especially thank this group for their time and energy in breaking through the tough site clay and construction debris and planting the trees with enthusiasm and expertise.

We encourage you to visit the campus and enjoy the new trees made available by Charles Bartlet family.





# Winter Sowing

By Sue Mathews

If you are an avid gardener, you have probably given seed starting a try. Maybe you have planted some herbs for a windowsill or trays of your favorite veggies and flowers to germinate in an elaborate artificially lit environment in the basement.

Have you ever tried starting your seeds outdoors in the winter? This has become the new thing.

It's inexpensive. Save your gallon milk jugs, gather from friends and neighbors, or check your local coffee emporium for empty jugs. Bigby's was very generous to me. All you need to purchase is potting soil, seeds, and tape. There is no need to dedicate household space to seed starting. Or to set up an elaborate, costly lighting system. Once you prepare your jugs and plant your seeds there is no more work to do until it is time to transplant in spring.

With your jug you will create a mini greenhouse. Clean the jug, then create drainage holes in the bottom. I use a Phillips screwdriver heated in a stove burner to bore my holes. Others use a hot glue gun, soldering iron, or utility knife. Mark a line around the jug just below the handle. With a utility knife or a kitchen shears, cut the jug in half along the line leaving intact a 1-1½ inch section by the handle. This acts as a hinge allowing you to open and close the jug. Fill the jug with potting soil (not seed starting mix) and plant your seeds. You can plant them fairly heavily as you will be transplanting them to other containers come spring. Water the soil well, close the jug and secure it with duct tape or painter's tape. Throw the cap away. Be sure to include a label inside the jug and label the outside as well. Nobody wants to have twenty-five jugs of unidentifiable seedlings. Put the jugs outside and let nature take its course. Check occasionally to make sure the soil is still damp. As spring comes and the weather warms you can begin to open the jugs during the day to give your seedlings more sun and exposure to the weather. When they are of transplant size separate the starts and move them into small pots to grow on until it is time to plant them in your garden.

The list of plants that can be winter sown is lengthy. Plants native to this area all can survive the winter; most actually require exposure to freezing temperatures before they will germinate. And lots of perennials, vegetables and hardy annuals will thrive under winter sowing conditions. Just think of those plants you find sprouting in your garden...tomatoes, phlox, asters, mallow, zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and more.

There is lots of information about winter sowing online. I got interested in it after watching this YouTube video: [Winter Sowing: An Innovative Method of Sowing Seeds Outdoors](#). And if you are on Facebook, check out the [Winter Sowers group](#). It has 53.3K members and there is a lot of very educational and experienced give and take among the members. If you are interested in what seeds you can winter sow, send me an email (sukarma2@yahoo.com). I have some good lists from a website that is no longer active.

The photo is just the first of my twenty-five jugs. I started with planting mainly native plants that I grew on in my raised beds with the plan to transplant them at Kohler Andrae State Park in the spring. I also started zinnias, marigolds, gomphrena, alyssum and more. It's never too cold to start planting.



# The Lifelong Gardener

By Sue Mathews

**A**s I approached the age of seventy, I noticed that I was not as physically strong and capable as I used to be. Many gardening chores became more difficult, took longer, and gave me aches and pains I had never felt before. I realized (as most of us senior gardeners are realizing) that I needed to hire a gardener (\$\$\$) or change my approach to gardening. That spring I put myself largely out of action for 5-6 weeks because I carried many heavy (too heavy) buckets of water to areas that were difficult to reach with a very heavy hose. I had a gardening injury to my shoulder which slowly improved. And so, I began looking for ways to garden smarter.

I picked up **The Lifelong Gardener: Garden with Ease and Joy at Any Age** by Toni Gattone hoping it would give me ideas on how to extend my gardening abilities for many more years. Here are the author's "10 Adaptive Gardening Rules to Live By".

1. Our bodies change. When we realize we have limitations that keep us from doing what we want, we have to learn to "accept what is" first.
2. We deserve a safe, comfortable garden to work in.
3. The best thing we can do for our body is stretch, stretch, stretch before we begin. Do something that gets you moving and warmed up.
4. Switch it up to keep things interesting and save energy. Every 30 minutes, start a different chore using a different group of muscles. It is repetitive movement that causes pain.

5. When we garden smarter, it takes less time to do more. Plan the chores you will be doing and gather the tools you will need to do them. This prevents "doubling back" for one more thing.
6. Save time and money by planting more shrubs and perennials. Choose the "right plant for the right place" and you won't spend time removing a 30-foot arborvitae planted beneath your eaves.
7. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Be precise about what you want done and include a deadline for any help you hire. Or have fun with friends.
8. Look for ways to make your gardening easier. Make your new containers self-watering. Keep tools sharp so every cut counts.
9. Only use ergonomic tools that are comfortable to use. There are more and more adaptive tools on the market. And this book has lots of ideas on how to make your old tools safer to use...add cushiony grips to hand tools or D-grips to long tools. Get a quality lightweight hose.
10. If you have a bad back, create opportunities to stand up and garden. Raise your beds as high as you can. Find eye-level vertical gardening opportunities.

[I found Gattone's book and the above, "10 Rules to Live By" helpful and thought I'd share them with my fellow MG volunteers.](#)

## Have you Signed Up for CANVAS?

Many members have asked about CANVAS click on the following link to learn more about it and its many benefits.

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/2021/03/16/using-canvas/>

# Changes to the Master Gardener Program in 2022

**Y**ou may have heard or had a chance to watch the UW-Madison Master Gardener Program video that highlights fundamental changes for Master Gardener Volunteers starting January 1, 2022. The feedback I've received so far from MGVs has been overwhelmingly positive. In a nutshell, the changes mean greater autonomy for local Master Gardener Associations.

While not all the details for this transition have been finalized we have a good idea for how the new structure will impact local associations.

## **I. Here are key points regarding the new Master Gardener structure.**

- 1) More flexibility and less burden meeting UW Master Gardener requirements and reporting.
- 2) Local Associations act independently. Relationship with WIMGA may strengthen.
- 3) The Master Gardener Board continues to provide guidance for project support and implementation. Volunteer projects continue to be focused on gardening and horticulture for public entities and non-profits.
- 4) Master Gardeners will be volunteering and reporting hours against the public entity or non-profit organizations they are volunteering for, as opposed to a specific project.
- 5) What counts? Master Gardeners continue to engage in a wide variety of horticultural content through gardening, educating others, their own CE, fundraisers and leadership positions supporting horticultural activities and education.

## **II. UW-Madison Extension no longer extends liability to all Master Gardener Volunteers as in the past. What does that mean?**

- Master Gardeners are no longer required to complete UW-Madison's Criminal Background Checks nor complete the Mandatory Reporting Training.

- Instead, Master Gardener Volunteers are required to meet the background checks and requirements of the organization they are volunteering for. Bookworm Gardens is a good example where Sheboygan MGVs have needed to go through the Bookworm's Garden's background check process in order to volunteer there.
- Master Gardener Volunteers are credentialed by the UW-Madison Master Gardener Program. Requirements for being a "Certified Master Gardener" include: training and exam, on-boarding orientation and volunteering time and CE.
- Reporting hours and CE will continue with the goal of 24 hours of volunteer time and 10 hours of CE by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - ◆ There will be more flexibility when volunteers are not able to meet the 24, 10 goals. More details to come on this.
- No annual enrollment process.

## **III. Master Gardener Volunteers still have access to UW-Madison Master Gardener Training and horticultural resources.**

## **IV. A Master Gardener "Code of Ethics" will be shared at a later time.**

Thank you all for your service to Sheboygan County as Master Gardener Volunteers. While some details are still being worked out, I'm confident the new structure will unleash the energy of Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers moving forward.

Mike Ballweg  
Extension Sheboygan County

# Master Gardener Participation Levels for 2022

At a statewide level the policy defines:

- Different levels of participation in the Extension Master Gardener Program
- When you are removed from the program
- How you can return to the program

Participation Level	Criteria	Notes
Certified	You report BOTH a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service and a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education into the Online Reporting System (ORS) by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are active in the program and contribute the minimum # of hours in both volunteer service and continuing education.</li> <li>• You are Certified the following year.</li> <li>• You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.)</li> <li>• You are eligible for awards and recognition (TBD)*</li> </ul>
Active	You report less than the minimum hours of volunteer service (24) or continuing education (10), and report at least 1 hour of volunteer service and 1 hour of continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are Active in the program, contributing less than the minimum # of hours in both volunteer service (24) and continuing education (10), but reporting a minimum of 1 hour in each.</li> <li>• You are uncertified for the following year.</li> <li>• You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.)</li> <li>• You may not be eligible for some awards (TBD)*.</li> </ul>
Inactive	You report less than 1 hour in either volunteer service or continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are Inactive for the following year.</li> <li>• You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.)</li> <li>• You are ineligible for awards and recognition.</li> </ul>
Deactivated	You report two consecutive years of less than 1 hour in either volunteer service or continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning of year 3, you are removed from the Extension Master Gardener Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> You are removed from the email list and your ORS &amp; Canvas account is deactivated.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> You are no longer affiliated with the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program and may not use the term "Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener."</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> You may re-apply for admission according to the policy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Honored	You complete 10 years* OR 1000 hours of service to the Extension Master Gardener Program in Wisconsin as recorded into the ORS AND list significant accomplishments to the local or statewide program. This should include leadership, contributions to projects, or support to other volunteers and Extension staff. You agree to terms and conditions.**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You complete the application. (Applications will be accepted only from November 1 through December 31, with decisions awarded before March 31.)</li> <li>• Criteria is subject to change in the future.</li> </ul>

\*Contingent on new awards and recognition system.

\*\* Terms and conditions include the Code of Ethics. The Master Gardener Program reserves the right to update these as necessary.

To return to the Master Gardener Program:

- Once Deactivated, you have up to 5 years since last being Active/Certified to return to the program (with the requirement of completing Onboarding-lite (no exam, no fee).
- After 5 years of absence, you must re-enroll and complete Onboarding (take exam and pay fee).
- You will return with a participation level of Inactive. The hours you report into the ORS by December 31 will determine your participation level for the following year.



# Tidbits from My Reading

By Sue Mathews

## M ailbox Storage

### Fine Gardening, Dec 2019

Post a mailbox in a back corner of your garden to hold some crucial tools and supplies such as pruners, trowels, gardening gloves, or cord for tying up plants. It will save you many trips to the garage.

*MYTHS: three things that don't work (reliably) as deer repellent*

### Fine Gardening, Dec 2019

- Barrier Planting...Deer will gladly reach over low-growing aromatics to eat your roses. Effective barriers must be four feet high and four feet deep
- Dryer Sheets...While your garden may smell freshly laundered the consensus is that they do not deter the deer.
- Blood meal...Has limited usefulness as deer quickly get use to the smell. And too much blood meal is not good for your plants.

*Using Paper & Cardboard in Compost*

### Allotment & Gardens: Allotment-Grow Your Own -Gardening Help (web page)

Cardboard and paper can be a valuable resource for the gardener. Being rich in carbon it is useful for balancing compost ingredients in a heap heavy with nitrogen rich green plant material. Used directly as part of a mulch system it suppresses weeds and improves soil quality.

*Bread-knife pruner*

### Fine Gardening, Dec 2021

When it comes time to cut back spent flower stalks a serrated bread knife works like a charm, saving time, backs, and hand/arm muscles. For plants like grasses, iris, daylilies, and anything with a softer stem the bread knife beats a pruner every time.

*Note: The photo is a selection from my collection including two steak knives. All of which I obtained from a dollar store or second-hand shop.*



*Gardening in entertaining too.*

### Fine Gardening, Dec 2021

A reader discovered a new use for an old entertainment center—a raised garden bed. Lay it on its back, remove the doors, drawers, and hardware, fill it with soil and you are ready to garden in a no cost garden bed that required zero to little labor.



*Perennials in Pots Can Be Saved Over the Winter.*

### Horticulture (online newsletter), Nov 16, 2021

Perennials in pots are good candidates for overwintering if they are rated for 1 or 2 zones colder than your garden. Treat them as you would perennials in the ground. Keep them watered until the potting freezes, pull them into a more sheltered space and apply a layer of mulch. For plants not hardy to your area you will have to work a little harder to keep them alive until spring. [Find out what you can do here.](#)

*Note: Pots exposed to winter conditions should be freeze resistant. Terra cotta, ceramic, concrete and other moisture absorbing materials are prone to cracking in freezing weather.*

*How to Build a Terrarium*

### Fine Gardening (online newsletter) Nov 18, 2021

Looking for a project to combat the post-holiday doldrums? Why not build a terrarium? [This brief article](#) has easy, concise instructions on how to get the job done. For more detailed information check out this book at your local library: **33 Glass gardens to make your own** by Anna Bauer.



2022 Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Short Course - Online via Zoom

Master Gardener LGMSC Viewing Party - 12:45-4:00 pm  
Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 (Registration is required to attend) - Masks are required in UWGB Campus Building

Week 1 - Wednesday, February 2 - 1:00 pm

◆ **Cankers and Vascular Wilts of Landscape Trees**

Learn about common vascular wilt and canker diseases of trees and shrubs.

*Dr. Brian Hudelson, Director, Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, UW-Madison Extension*

◆ **Drought Tolerant Trees and Shrubs**

This talk will focus on general plant choices for dry sites, as well as specific plants for unique applications.

*Erik Desotelle, Wholesale Sales, Johnson Nursery*

Week 2 - Wednesday, February 9 - 1:00 pm

◆ **Invasive Woody Plants and Alternative Plants to Use in the Landscape**

Review alternatives for invasive woody plants and highlight their ornamental characteristics, such as showy fall color, form, flower and fruit production, and value to pollinators and wildlife.

*Laura Jull, Associate Professor, UW-Madison*

◆ **Designing with Annuals**

This presentation will examine a wide range of annuals for sun and shade and examine scenarios for their best use.

*Mark Dwyer, Owner/Operator Landscape Prescriptions by MD*

Week 3 - Wednesday, February 16 - 1:00 pm

◆ **Insect Defoliators of Landscape Trees and Shrubs**

In this talk, we'll review common defoliating pests, the damage they cause, their biology, and discuss management approaches for landscape plants.

*P.J. Liesch, Entomologist, UW-Madison Extension*

◆ **Ornamental Grasses in Landscape**

Learn about the many perennial ornamental grasses available to Wisconsin gardeners. Mark will share ideas on how to design with grasses and show examples of grasses in the landscape.

*Mark Konlock, Director of Horticulture, Green Bay Botanical Garden*

Week 4 - Wednesday, February 23 - 1:00 pm

◆ **Choosing and Comparing Herbicides for Broadleaf Weed Control**

This workshop will review the different broadleaf herbicides and compare their efficacy on common and difficult to control weeds.

*Dr. Aaron Patton, Professor of Horticulture, University of Purdue*

◆ **Growing Resilient Turf**

This session will highlight the best performing species and cultivars of grasses for Wisconsin's lawns and landscapes under contrasting conditions.

*Dr. Doug Soldat, Professor, UW-Madison*

**Sheboygan County MGV's - 2022 Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Short Course**

All participants must provide their email address when registering to receive a unique zoom link.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Required by January 28 or Call (920) 459-5904.**

**Make checks payable to: Extension Sheboygan County . Course Location: Online via Zoom**

**Mail to:**

Extension Sheboygan County  
Attn: Tammy  
5 University Drive  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 (per person all 4 sessions)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Week 1  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Week 2  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Week 3  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Week 4

**Total—\$** \_\_\_\_\_

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