



Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

A Volunteer Organization of the UW-Cooperative Extension Service



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April / May 2013

Kathie's Notes

My trillium patch still has more than a foot of snow covering it. This has been a very long winter. That didn't stop our training class! We are ready to welcome 24 new Master Gardeners into the DCMGA!!!!

Several new ideas were tried to accommodate the large class. We may decide to add *MEET AND GREET* as an annual event. The training committee did a great job of punting – two snow storms put a wrench in the schedule. The class divided themselves in half and planned the two annual beds. This is their class project. I listened to each group and think it's going to be spectacular. The class had greenhouse orientation and Larry Maas Propagation Class in the same week. The training committee is delighted with their effort and enthusiasm. It's been a pleasure getting to know each and every one of them!

To facilitate their enthusiasm we are going to implement a Google Group entitled Door County Master Gardeners. This will be a closed network that only members of DCMGA can use to enlist help in different areas of The Garden Door. Anyone who is an approved member can post on the site asking for assistance or setting a time to meet. If you want to participate please e-mail Kathie and we'll get you started. I have to enter/approve each member. Once you are in you can post to the entire group or to individuals. This is a new experience for all of us, so please be patient as we work out the kinks. Eventually Jim McFarlin, Lynn Truckey and Kerry will manage the site.

I have had three class members offer to assist with the website and one who will merge the roster. Three have volunteered for the Youth Committee and I am a very happy camper!

20 members have ordered new magnetic name tags. The date for FLS/ embroidered logo apparel has been set. FLS Banners is located at 254 Louisiana Street. It is directly behind the Corner Café. All orders have to be in to Glenna by April 29th so that we can have delivery in time for the May 25th Plant Sale.

If you want the web addresses and handouts from Kori Zawojski's Sunnypoint Garden Presentation or Tom Luebker's Veggie Class, go to dcmga.org and click the articles tab under THE BUZZ. I have uploaded them for your viewing pleasure! Kori's Sunnypoint List and Class Schedule are there. Tom's Rotation Chart, Controlling Insects page and When to Plant information are also available. Also on the home page of dcmga.org I have a box for upcoming education. This will be updated often so that you don't miss ANY chances for great programming offered in our area. The summer is going to be filled with fun activities. We have always had problems connecting Garden Door workers and area supervisors. I hope that the Google group idea helps our new members feel welcome and gives them an opportunity to participate.

Congratulations to the class for passing their tests and completing their classroom education time! Please welcome the Class of 2013 into our Master Gardener "Family".

Kathie

Your Door County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors and Officers:

President..... Kathie Vavra
Vice President..... Carol Berglund
Treasurer.....Martha Burris
Secretary..... Wendy Woldt
Board Members: Michelle Kemp, Barb Allmann, Bill Freyman, Tom Luebker, Jim McFarlin
State Board Representative.....Rod Bohn
Advisor.....Dean Volenberg

MISSION STATEMENT: The Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc., in partnership with UW-Extension, shall strive to make a positive impact on horticulture in our community through education, community outreach, and stewardship of our environment.



Door County Master Gardeners . . . "taking care of business!"

DCMGA Board Meeting - March 13, 2013 By Wendy Woldt, Secretary

Board Members Present: Carol Berglund, Kathie Vavra, Jim McFarlin, Wendy Woldt, Bill Freyman, Martha Burris, and Tom Luebker.

Also Present: Dick Allmann, Jan Ziemann

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm. Motion to approve the minutes of January 16th was offered by Bill Freyman and seconded by Jim McFarlin. Motion approved.

Correspondence

1. Kathie presented a letter of thanks from The Community's Garden for the donation from the Master Gardeners.
2. Also received a thank you note from Judy Gierach for the \$25 Memorial donation for her mother, Belle Vreeland. The money will be used for Youth programs and church landscaping.
3. It was mentioned that the class was going to exceed their \$50 budget for the annual beds. It was approved to allow them extra money. Carol Berglund is their area supervisor.

Treasurer's Report

It was reported that the money for Crossroads Corporate Sponsorship had not been given to them yet. It has already been approved in the education budget. Motion was made to approve the report by Bill Freyman and seconded by Carol Berglund.

Old Business

1. Tom Luebker reported that Matt approved the use of sharing the station's WiFi router base station for the classroom. Master Gardeners must purchase their own router base. Tom said he would follow up on this.
2. Jan Z brought a map of the landscape design for the yard at the Land Trust Office downtown. They are looking for someone in the MG to take on maintaining the yard after the job is finished. Bill Freyman said that there is a major discussion set for the May agenda about setting up guidelines for outreach programs. There is a list on the website of projects they are already involved with. To find this list go to outreach on the left side and click on projects. Jan recommended putting a comment about this so people can think about this discussion ahead of time.
3. Kathie reported that she has found someone new to make the badges and they are more than half the price. Samples were presented and one style was approved. There are some blank sheets of the old material left and they will be saved for signs in The Garden Door. Jim McFarlin made the motion and Bill Freyman seconded it.
4. Kathie reported the meeting with Matt went very well. The mulch pile and compost pile are to be moved from the Garden Next Door to east of The Garden Door (TGD) where the grapes used to be. MG's are to pay for the mulch and the station can use what they need. Mulch has already been ordered for this year from Algoma Hardwoods, which will deliver it.
5. Bill Freyman reported that the 5 years inactive status is in the bylaws. People must have 10 hours of volunteer and 20 hours of education to reinstate. There will be a board discussion to the bylaws and bring it to the annual meeting.
6. There was discussion about adding another column for hours worked at TGD. The thought was that it might encourage more interest in helping in the garden.

Board Meeting Minutes (cont'd.)

7. Jim McFarlin brought a tri-fold for Winnebago County. Christine was not present.

8. Bill Freyman discussed Carol Berglund's idea of putting a banner saying open at the front of the Station. Options were putting it up and taking it down everyday or just leaving it up. There was also some talk about a sign pointing to TGD helping to direct people to the garden.

New Business

1. The DC Library project: the dig reported that they had plenty of volunteers. Pat Storms says they must still buy worms for the project.

2. We discussed that the Boy Scouts need a mentor for them to get their gardening merit badge. Matt said he would help coordinate that.

3. Kathie discussed setting up an account on Google Groups that MG's could use as a closed group site for communications when lining up help in TGD and our other activities. These messages would come up like an email.

4. It was recommended that some information from Tom Luebker's program, "How to Start a Veggie Garden," be put on the website. It is to be called "Veggie Gardens 101". It was also recommended that information from Frank Weber about Growing Vegetables in Door County be added.

5. Mike Green from the Senior Resource Center wants someone who could teach about raised beds. It will be brought up with the Education Committee.

6. Carl Scholtz has been doing the WDOR radio programs for many years. MG's are going to start a series of informational talks on the radio pertaining to the lectures at Crossroads about a week after the programs are held. For each interview, there will be a need for two MG people to assist with publicity.

7. Carol Berglund wondered how the date was picked for the West of the Lake Garden Tour. She mentioned that it would be nice to go to Solaris Farm in Whitelaw when the lilies are in bloom while on that trip.

State Association Report – Board member election deadline is April 12. Rod Bohn is running for member-at-large position.

Committee Reports

1. Bill Freyman reported that they were finishing up the year's public programs a Crossroads. He mentioned that there has been a lot of positive feedback already from MG's programs with good attendance. They are beginning to work on next year's programs.

2. Dick Allmann reminded of the spring-clean up at TGD. That is, if the snow has melted.

3. The Training Committee discussed the impact on having a larger class this year. Bill and Jim thought it was easier to keep students engaged, using the hands on programs like Tom Luebker's "Veggie Gardens 101" discussion.

The next meeting will be May 15, 2013 at 5:30 at the Research Station.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Reminder to Vote by April 12 for WI Master Gardener Board Member-At-Large

Our fellow member, **Rod Bohn**, is on the ballot for re-election to the Wisconsin Master Gardener Board as the incumbent for the member-at-large position. Rod has served as an at-large board member and as vice-president. Please vote before the **Friday, April 12 deadline** by emailing Susan Mahr (semahr@wisc.edu). Those who are unable to email, you may send the paper ballot found on page 5 of the most recent WIMGA newsletter. The vote must be received by the April 12 deadline.

Thank you!
Jan Ziemann



The Garden Door

Garden Door Notes

By Vicki Dirst

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike. John Muir (1912)

Garden Door Committee Meeting, March 11, 2013

Present: Barb and Dick Allmann (co-chairs), Vicki Dirst, Jo Ann Tarczewski, Allen Miller, Jim Friedrichs, Patty Medeiros, Shirley Ziman, Christine Gritzmacher, Wendy Woldt, Sandie Ott, Tom and Jane Luebker, Kathy Green, Jim Baxter

Call to order: Dick called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Open House and Taste of the Garden Door: There was nothing to report.

Area Supervisor Reports: Barb said Doug and Barb Henderson informed her they found new tufa structures to add to the garden. She also said there was a suggestion to put in new plaques for the human sundial and the kaleidoscope. Christine said there is a need for a diversion to keep the mulch in the rose garden from washing onto the adjoining paths, and she asked what her budget is for the rose garden. Kathy asked if there is a plan to get more crushed stone for the paths, since she doesn't want to use chemicals to get rid of weeds near the edibles in the herb garden. Dick said yes, we are getting more stone for the paths. Wendy said she has been doing a lot of work on the paths, adding stone and very carefully spraying weeds. Jim F. suggested applying Preen (a pre-emergent) to the paths. Sandie talked about banners, two for the Open House and two for the Taste, for a total cost of \$336. They will be re-usable in future years. Allen talked about the annual beds that the training class is doing this year. Christine recommended buying six bags of cocoa bean mulch for those beds. Pruning will need to be done in the garden this year. Tom and Jim F. said they are willing to help prune.

Results of meeting with Matt: Barb talked about the positive meeting with Matt. He will let us know who in the UW system we should invite to our special events. We will order 30 yards of mulch and Matt will let us know how much the Research Station needs. We have permission to place a kiosk in the parking lot. Matt really likes the new garden Tom Luebker designed for the Research Station's entrance. The Research Station will supply us with compost for the plant sale pots and soil for the annual beds.

Plant Sale: There was limited discussion regarding the forthcoming use of the greenhouse.

Garden Door Presentation to Training Class: Allen felt the presentation went well. A couple of class members made commitments to help in certain areas of the garden.

Spring Cleanup April 20th: The date may change depending on the weather. Barb suggested that people call 2013 class members to invite them to work on the cleanup.

Other Discussion: Barb said Carl has been doing the radio program forever. The education committee feels more people need to participate. The program on June 20th (10:20-11:00) gives us an opportunity to publicize the Open House. Dick and Barb urged the Open House co-chairs to provide one or two people to do that radio program. They have the full details.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm. **The next meeting will be May 13th.**

2013 DCMGA GARDEN TOURS by Kerry Vavra

I would like to take this opportunity to announce the dates of this year's garden tours. Due to the size of our class we have chosen to have the tours on FOUR separate days. Logistics and calendar conflicts dictate that we spread these tours over a larger period of time. We will all meet at the old K-Mart parking lot (near Pic-N-Save) for convenience and car-pooling. All tours will start from that point at noon.

Sunday June 30th will be the first. This first tour will be everyone located south of the canal.

Sunday July 28th will be everyone from Sturgeon Bay heading north to Carlsville.

Sunday August 4th is the Carlsville and north tour.

Sunday August 18th Students have heard about some of the DCMGA showcase gardens. Both Barb and Doug Henderson and Joan and Dale Jeanquart have graciously invited us to tour their gardens. Some members of last year's class will also have an opportunity to show us their gardens.

I will be mapping out a logical progression through the county and personally contacting each member for parking instructions and approximate tour times, etc. Car pooling is highly recommended. Feel free to contact Kerry if you have any questions or concerns.

***Reminder: The Garden Door Spring Cleanup is April 20th
(Rain date: April 27)***

Remember how much fun you had the first time you slipped into the pond while digging out overgrown grasses? Or uncovering the first sprouts of daffodils when you raked leaf debris from the perennial bed?

Come and join the fun at The Garden Door for our annual Spring Cleaning Saturday on April 20th. We usually start about 8:30—9:00 am and continue until lunchtime. Dress for the weather, bring your gloves and any favorite tools that you prefer, or use the DCMGA's tools from the shed. See you there!



Education Committee:

The Door County Master Gardeners Association Education Committee announces the last of its winter educational programs for this year, to be held on Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00 pm in the Collins Center of Crossroads at Big Creek in Sturgeon Bay. This program is free and open to the public. For more information on this event, please contact Bill and Sarah Freyman (920-868-1749).

**Gardening Survival 101 - Small Projects to Fix Big Problems
April 16, 2013 at 7 pm at Crossroads at Big Creek**

As spring begins, gardeners all over Door County are scouring seed catalogs, dreaming about this year's garden, and making plans to correct nagging problems that have faced their home gardens in the past. While budgeting for this year's seed and plant purchases, they are also working to discover ways to economically fix things that went wrong last year. To help make that effort easier, the Door County Master Gardeners invite the public to join them on Tuesday, April 16, at 7 pm for a free program designed to help gardeners navigate the treacherous waters of home garden improvement projects.

"Gardening Survival 101- Small Projects to Fix Big Problems" will be presented by Jason Feldman. He will discuss a wide range of problems gardeners typically face here and focus on several in detail, such as issues associated with rainwater runoff, to show how down-to-earth solutions can correct them. Utilizing common sense, gardeners can fix almost any problem they face. So understanding how the process works to provide reasonable solutions in specific examples gives the home gardener another tool to use to fix the unique issues presented in the gardener's own yard, without spending a fortune.

Jason grew up in Southern Wisconsin where horticulture was his family's "culture." They owned a 100 acre nursery and greenhouse operation and a 400 acre farm. Jason's experience includes golf course maintenance and management, which paid for most of his college education. Twelve years after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (with majors in Social Science and English), Jason was a nursery manager for the bare root division of Jung's Seed Company. He later relocated to Door County where he was a special education teaching assistant and head soccer coach for the Gibraltar Schools before taking a job in management, design and sales for a local landscape company. Jason started his own business in 2011, Jason Feldman Landscapes (www.jasonfeldmanlandscapes.com), a successful Door County enterprise. He lives with his wife, Holly, and their three children in Sturgeon Bay.

Send Your Feedback On 2013 DCMGA Educational Programs

This year, we are requesting comments and suggestions related to the DCMGA Educational Programs be submitted via email, instead of on written forms distributed at the event. If you have attended any of the 2013 programs and would like to comment on them, or if you have suggestions for topics to be discussed in future educational programs, please e-mail them to: doorgardener@gmail.com

The 2013 Educational Programs include:

What's Hot for 2013 and Sunnypoint Gardens' 40th Year by Kori Zawojski on Feb. 19th

Your Community Garden Update by Jenny Spude on Feb. 26th

Your Eight-legged Colleagues: Spiders in the Garden by Mike Draney on March 5th

How to Start a Veggie Garden by Tom Luebker on March 19th

Gardening Survival 101—Small Projects to Fix Big Problems by Jason Feldman on April 16th

**What's Hot For 2013 and Sunnypoint Gardens' 40th Year
Presented by Kori Zawojski on Feb. 19, 2013**

Kori Zawojski, joined by her mother-in-law Jan Zawojski, enthusiastically introduced us to new garden trends and plant varieties that will be available this summer. Because 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the Zawojski family business at Sunnypoint Gardens, they also highlighted some of the changes over the years in their business located along Wisconsin 42 in Egg Harbor. The program included personal stories and photographs of Sunnypoint Gardens during the past 40 years. For example, in 1974, the site had only one small glass greenhouse and one fiberglass greenhouse, but it has been rebuilt three times since then (1980, 1990 and 1999) to a complex that now include numerous greenhouses that provide 30,000 square feet of growing space. Kori's voice indicated the emotion she still feels about the 1999 rebuild that was "directed by Mother Nature" when a 1998 tornado destroyed much of the property. She expressed sincere thanks to the neighbors and customers, known and unknown, who came to help the family recover the business following that destruction.

In addition to Sunnypoint Gardens' physical changes, Kori described changes that have increased planting consistency and efficiency, and availability of plant varieties, from heirlooms to new hybrids. Commercially available sterile planting mixtures, lightweight containers (instead of clay pots), automated planting machines and greenhouse operations, and greatly expanded access via the Internet to many types of seeds and plant varieties has dramatically changed Sunnypoint Gardens' operations and products, particularly during the last 10 years. Sunnypoint Gardens is known for its hanging baskets that Judy started, typically with petunias or fuchsias, but which are now often combination baskets that offer more varieties of plants, colors and textures. Kori described garden trends that have influenced the business as people seek more native plants, varieties to attract butterflies and bees, succulents, drought tolerant plants, and miniature plants for "fairy gardens." She concluded her presentation with examples of some current favorites that will be stocked this summer, with emphasis on new perennial hybrids including varieties of Hostas, Heucheras, daisies and Echinaceas. Those colorful visions of spring and summer helped warm us as we exited into the February night.

**Your Community Garden Update
presented by Jenny Spude on Feb. 26, 2013**

Jenny Spude of the Door County UW Extension office, with John Meredith and Rob Burke, gave us an enthusiastic update on The Community's Garden located on 16th Place, across from Ministry Door County Medical Center in Sturgeon Bay. She briefly reviewed the growing community garden movement in America, with its increased focus on sustainability for local growth of food, while helping connect people with nature, horticulture and their community. The Community's Garden has done that in the few years it has been in existence. It was sponsored by Ministry Door County Medical Center, which provided 8 acres by donation of a long-term \$1 per year lease for the land. Additional sponsors include Lakeshores Landscape & Design, Inc. and the UW Cooperative Extension, which provided expertise and assistance to make the Garden a reality. The City of Sturgeon Bay has also been a committed partner of this project. The Garden has been a truly collaborative effort involving the City of Sturgeon Bay Engineer, a horticultural therapist, a landscape architect, a local organic gardener, Master Gardeners, and the chef of Ministry Door County Medical Center. The Garden provides plots to families and organizations, so that people can learn more about local food production and nutrition in a hands-on and supportive environment. Like many successful community gardens, it is located near schools to provide easy and safe access for kids and adults to come and learn or work at the gardens or simply enjoy them, which is a benefit for long-term care patients and their visitors at the hospital. The hospital further promotes nutrition by using produce from 6 plots in the Garden in the hospital's food preparation. Excess produce is donated to the Lakeshore Community food pantry to help provide local vegetables and increase local awareness of healthy nutrition. Over 700 pounds of produce has been donated from the Garden!

Jennifer provides educational programs related to gardening and nutrition through the UW Extension office located in the County Government Center (421 Nebraska St., Sturgeon Bay, WI). As part of the "Food for Health" series for families, she is seeking a volunteer to be the co-facilitator for a project on June 24th to help teach planting and transplanting techniques to parents and kids. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information in this opportunity to participate in an educational event, please contact her at 920-746-5994 or via email at jennifer.spude@ces.uwex.edu

**Your Eight-Legged Colleagues: Spiders in Your Garden
Presented by Mike Draney on March 5, 2013**

Mike Draney, biology professor at UW-Green Bay, gave an entertaining and informative program that gave all who attended a better appreciation of spiders, for their inherent beauty and ability to protect gardens and gardeners alike from harmful insects. Mike gave a brief overview of spiders' place in the animal kingdom, namely in the *Arachnida* characterized by having 6 pairs of appendages, including 4 pair of walking legs, 2 body parts and no antennae. Wisconsin's Arachnids include the Acari (mites and ticks), Opiliones (Harvestmen, Daddy Long Legs), Pseudoscorpiones (tiny creatures with venomous pincers), and the Araneae that includes spiders (and 7 other orders). Mike described spiders' unique characteristics: spinnerets on the abdomen for making spider silk and pedipalps in males for making more spiders. Spiders' silk is perhaps their most beautiful and useful tool that may have evolved to protect spider eggs, but is used in many ways: to make burrows, for hunting tools when formed into tangles, orbs, sheets or funnels, and for mobility as drag lines, bridge lines and balloon lines that allow spiders to travel easily despite being unable to fly. Silk is also used to make sperm webs, nuptial webs, and nursery webs to ensure spiders' survival. Mike described a typical spider life cycle from an egg in an egg sac through a series of molts to the final molt into an adult. Spring spiders are usually non-web spinners that overwinter as immature forms, and Autumn spiders are often web spinners that overwinter in egg sacs. Common Wisconsin Spring spiders include the Wolf, Parson, and Jumping spiders. Common Wisconsin Autumn spiders include the color changing Crab spiders and nocturnal Wandering Crab spiders (non-web types), Woodlouse spider that eats pill bugs, Funnel Web spiders, Orb Web spiders that include yellow garden spiders, Bridge spiders that make webs on metal such as bridges, Long-jawed Orb weavers that make horizontal webs on grasses and sedges, and the Marbled Orb Weaver and Cross spiders.

Mike convinced us that spiders are our friends because they not only eat garden pests but control flying insects that bother gardeners. Spiders add seasonal diversity to gardens and are food for birds and amphibians. Spiders are only dangerous if you are an insect and cannot "bite" humans (they pierce and suck liquids from insects). The Northern Black Widow is the only poisonous spider in Wisconsin and is rare. He encouraged gardeners to provide a welcoming "spiderscape" by avoiding use of insecticides, providing diverse plant architecture with multiple plant varieties with different textures, heights, and flowers, keeping a "messy" garden that includes leaf litter, rocks, and logs to provide sunny and shady habitats, and by supporting local biodiversity by using native plants.

**How to Start a Veggie Garden
Presented by Tom Luebker on March 19, 2013**

Tom Luebker introduced people to growing healthy home-grown produce in their own yards or community gardens by providing detailed practical information on how to make a garden to produce food. This popular program was attended by 95 people! Home gardens offer people the opportunity to grow the produce they prefer and manage how it is grown, to grow produce that is often better tasting, more nutritious, and costs less than produce shipped from long distances. Many people are interested in learning whether they can produce enough food to make it worth their effort before they start a garden. This topic appealed to a wide spectrum of people and Tom provided practical information to help people get started on making a vegetable garden.

Tom Luebker is a Master Gardener with extensive horticultural training and gardening experience. His approach to gardening relies on up-to-date information on vegetable gardening practices and uses a common sense approach to avoid making mistakes when beginning a vegetable garden. Tom's advice was based, in part, on his own experiences in designing his home garden that now produces excellent strawberries that are in high demand locally. Tom advised new gardeners on how to design a vegetable garden to meet their needs and desires. He advised new gardeners to start small and work up to a larger garden as they determine what grows well in their area, what they want to grow, and how much effort they want to expend in the garden. He advised gardeners to start with a soil test on the soil of the proposed garden to identify its condition and which amendments may be needed. Based on the soil test results, gardeners can add only those soil nutrients that are needed, and thus avoid over-fertilizing that may harm plants or result in great plant growth but poor vegetable yields. Tom told the audience how to find out more about the types of vegetable seeds and plants that are available by consulting UW Extension web sites and certain seed suppliers' catalogs for detailed information. Tom advised gardeners to rotate their crops to avoid pest or disease problems and ensure good yields beyond the garden's first year. Knowledge and confidence gained from this presentation may result in more home vegetable gardens in Door County this year!

Summer Trip to “West of the Lake Gardens” in Manitowoc Scheduled for June 25, 2012

The DCMGA field trip will be held on Tuesday, June 25th to the “West of the Lake Gardens” located at 915 Memorial Drive in Manitowoc. We are scheduled to arrive there at 10:00 am for a tour to be lead by Donald Cisler, the Gardens’ head horticulturist. Allen Miller, the coordinator for this event, will send details on the trip in May. So mark your calendars and plan to attend this enjoyable and informative educational event.

West of the Lake Gardens originated in a former street car right of way that was purchased in 1934 by John Dunham West and Ruth St. John West. On April 22, 1934 the first strip of thistle and quack grass was turned to begin a garden. Subsequently, Mrs. West and her gardener hand spaded all 6 acres, removed weeds and established lawn. Seventy Colorado spruce trees were planted to develop the north and west windbreaks that still stand today.

The Wests’ residence, which is surrounded by the gardens, was designed by Mr. West and built in 1934, with numerous additions made through 1950. It was the area’s first modern-style house, which Mrs. West fondly named “West of the Lake” although locals dubbed it the "Shoebox Estate."

By autumn 1934, Mrs. West became addicted to gardening. After the initial success of 200 tulips planted in her garden, Mrs. West expanded the gardens. By the 1950's, they included more than 30,000 tulips in formal, gracefully sweeping beds with developing perennial borders. Mrs. West shared her enthusiasm for the flowers by opening the gardens to the public for an annual West of the Lake Tulip Tea, which became a 30 year tradition. After the tulips faded, the bulbs were lifted and the gardens were planted with geraniums and fibrous begonias.

In the early 1960's, areas dedicated to tulips were planted with additional perennials until a mere 13,000 tulips remained. By 1967, the remaining tulips were removed and replaced by perennials, roses and dahlias. At one point, more than 800 roses filled to overflowing the 900 feet of perennial borders and display gardens, which provided spectacular color from May to October. In the 1970's and 1980's, an Eastern influence became evident in the gardens. A Japanese garden was added and some plant beds were converted to intricate designs of colored gravels, accentuated with pots of cacti and succulents from the Wests' greenhouses. This influence still dominates in the Gardens. For a virtual tour of the gardens, see the web site at www.westfoundation.us/virtual-tour.html

Following the deaths of John West (1989) and Ruth West (1990), the non-profit West Foundation, Inc. has maintained the gardens to continue the Wests’ legacy to their community and all who share their love of beauty. Please plan on joining our visit to this beautiful location.

Scenes from the Feb.
16th Meet & Greet Event
for the Class of 2013.

Thanks for joining us!



MG Training Class of 2013

The Class of 2013 has been busy since January with reading the MG training materials, attending classes, and taking on The Garden Door annual beds as the class project. This project includes designing, planting and maintaining the two annual beds. They organized themselves into two groups with each group taking responsibility for one of the beds. They have also been helping with preparations for the plant sale in the greenhouse. We all probably remember how busy the MG training period can be, so please let the class members know how much we appreciate their efforts when you see them.

Class members who were present on February 20th when The Garden Door committee members spoke to the class are shown below. (Vikki and Jerry Saballus were unable to attend due to a prior commitment.)

On Saturday, February 19th we had an informal Meet & Greet event at the Sevastopol Town Hall to get to know the Class of 2013 members and their spouses or friends with conversation, appetizers, beverages, and fun. Pictures taken at the event are on the previous page. The ever-popular bean bag toss game was a challenge that everyone excels at, no matter what their final score. Style and technique in the toss count, as shown in the pictures. Carl Scholz's game and door prizes, including his handmade walking sticks, are always interesting and appreciated! Kathie Vavra brought her own "walking sticks" and Jim McFarlin assisted her with his "good" arm.

Thanks to Kathie Vavra for organizing this event, to Carl Scholz for bringing the bean bag game and prizes, to everyone who brought goodies, helped set up and/or clean up, and to all who attended to make this a memorable event.



Class members shown above (left to right) are: (standing) Dora Leonardson, Lynn Truckey, Bonnie Rankin, Paul Hamlin, Zoe Wesolowski, (seated) Melissa Emminger, Linda Lambert, George Cassidy, and Sue May.



Class members shown above are: (standing) Pat Christman, Deborah Javurek, Donna Hake, Phil Block, Jim Baxter, Holly Green, (seated) Scott Thies, Zachary Christman, and Tim Kazmierczak.

Online Modules on Current Pest and Pathogen Problems

In 2012 the Master Gardener program in Illinois released a series of online modules on current pest and pathogen problems, created by their plant pathologists, plant clinic staff, Extension educators and entomologists. The original intent for the modules was to provide online education to Master Gardeners and they found that the modules are also a fast and easy tool for MGs to access the information when answering client questions in the office. They are now opening up the modules to Green Industry partners and other stakeholders in Illinois as well as to Master Gardeners in other states.

They currently have 6 modules online (Bacterial Leaf Scorch, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Sudden Oak Death, Thousand Canker Disease, Spruce Problems, and Downy Mildew on Basil and Impatiens). In the next month or so they will release 2 more – on Emerald Ash Borer and Bur Oak Blight – and have plans to continue to create more. Modules include information and pictures of the pathogen or pest, host plants, symptoms, diagnosis, management and more.

Participants will need to create a login and password to access the modules. After studying the material presented in the module, participants take a short quiz. They must repeat the quiz until they receive a perfect score and then they are directed to an online evaluation of the module. When finished, the participant is able to print out a certificate which validates their completion of the module. Each module takes about ½ hour to complete and is worth ½ hour of Master Gardener continuing education credit in Illinois. The WI Master Gardener Program Office approves these for ½ hour of CE as well, although you should confirm this with your local advisor, as they are the ultimate authority of what counts as hours in your county. To access the modules go to: <http://mg.cropsci.illinois.edu/>

Share Your Knowledge or Ask about Food Plants at “PlantVillage”

Penn State has developed a new web-based platform for people to exchange knowledge on growing food plants. They developed “PlantVillage” so people could post questions and the crowd could come up with very specific answers that draw from our collective knowledge. Crucial to the success of this site are passionate, engaged people like MG volunteers and extension folk. See <https://www.plantvillage.com> if you want to participate by providing answers (or ask questions).

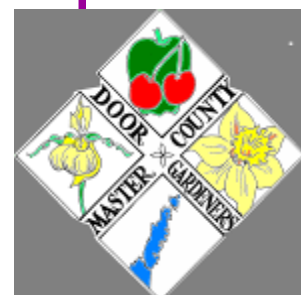
Land Trust Office Building Yard seeking "TLC"

New native plantings in the Land Trust building yard, located at 23 N. 5th Avenue in Sturgeon Bay, will need some Tender Loving Care as they grow and develop after the snow melts! Cliff Orsted of Door Landscape (Egg Harbor) began this project in 2012 and will complete plantings this spring. We have an opportunity to work with the Land Trust on this purely native landscape project. There may be other opportunities for MG's to work with a crew at one of the Land Trust's preserves in the northern Door peninsula. The Door County Land Trust's mission is to preserve, maintain, and enhance lands that contribute significantly to the scenic beauty, open space, and ecological integrity of Door County. This is an opportunity to work with the Land Trust and form a relationship in which we can foster learning and educating. MG volunteer hours may be available for these projects. Contact Jan Ziemann, 746-9931, or jan-dot@hotmail.com for additional information and to indicate your interest.

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!

Check dcmga.org Website for Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks to all DCMG's who participate in events throughout the year, from the spring planting, tending and sale, the Open House and Taste of the Garden Door events, all of our educational events that inspire and educate gardeners, and for providing the social culture to our events. Everyone who volunteers helps make our organization better. Please check notices on our web site at dcmga.org for information on volunteer opportunities.





Dates to Remember!

April 20th, morning: The Garden Door Spring Cleanup. Come and get dirty while making the gardens and paths clean.

May 18th: Walk through the Shivering Sands nature area with Carl Scholz. Check the dcmga.org web site for information on time and location.

May 25th, 9 am-Noon: The Annual Spring Plant Sale at the Peninsular Research Station. Tell your friends about it. Participate as a volunteer or buyer.

Save the Date — June 25, 2013 Summer Trip to “West of the Lake Gardens”

The DCMGA garden field trip will be held on **Tuesday, June 25th** when we will visit the “West of the Lake Gardens” located at 915 Memorial Drive in Manitowoc. We are scheduled to arrive there at 10:00 am for a tour of the Gardens. Our tour guide will be Donald Cisler, the Gardens’ head horticulturist. These beautiful formal gardens were started in 1934 by Ruth St. John West on a landmark Manitowoc estate.

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April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Youth Comm. Mtg 5:30 pm, Lee Sommerville's house	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Deadline for WIMG Board Election Vote	13
14	15	16 Ed. Prgm., 7 pm Crossroads	17	18	19	20 TGD Spring Cleanup, 9 AM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Remember to mark your calendars for **June 25** for the trip to West of the Lake Gardens (Manitowoc) and **July 13** for The Garden Door Open House.

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 TGD Comm. Mtg. 5:30 pm, Res Stn	14	15 Board Mtg. 5:30 pm, Res Stn	16	17	18 Shivering Sands walk with Carl Scholz
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Spring Plant Sale, 9 am-12, Res Stn
26	27	28	29	30	31	