



Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

A Volunteer Organization of the UW-Cooperative Extension Service



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April—May 2015

Mike's Message

During the first year of our existence, in the summer of 1995, we were invited to take part in an event at the Door County Fairgrounds. At an Open House for a newly constructed building, we saw an opportunity to answer gardening questions while taking an initial step at increasing our exposure in the community.

At around the same time, one of our charter members, Ann Hodges, was employed by a Northern Door shopping complex to complete a renovation of the gardens that surrounded the facility. She persuaded the owner of the property to donate the left over plants to the Master Gardeners. We, in turn, thought it would be a great idea to sell these plants at the Open House. Thus was born the Door County Master Gardener Plant Sale. Sales that day, along with sales of the leftover plants at the following weekend's Sturgeon Bay Farm Market, netted around \$700 – not a large amount compared to what we now earn at a plant sale, but a significant amount when you consider our treasury at the time was around \$60.

The next year, and for a number of years that followed, we held our sale at Cherry Point Mall. We used the area against the building between the main entrance and about where Anytime Fitness is now located. Back then, we sold only plants dug and donated by members. (It would be a few years before we began growing annuals and vegetables in the PARS greenhouse. It was some years later when we began purchasing perennials for the sale.) We stayed at the mall until they decided to landscape the area we used, forcing us to find a new location. It was then that we moved to the current location at PARS.

This year's sale will be our 21st. The money we net at each sale is usually our sole source of funds from which most of our activities throughout the year are funded. We've come a long way since our impromptu sale twenty years ago. But, what hasn't changed since that first event is the importance of time and material contributed by our members.

The event's success is highly dependent on what happens before the plants are arrayed for sale and the hordes of anxious customers rush to find their favorite plants to purchase. It starts in the greenhouse. Seeds have already started to germinate and more will be planted. Seedlings will need to be transplanted. Watering will be a daily task until the sale. If you can help in the greenhouse, get in touch with Jeanne Ehmke.

Although we order a number of perennials from nurseries to sell at the sale, we still need plants from members' gardens. Your donated plants equate to bigger profits. Now, as the ground is thawing and plants are emerging, is the time to look over your garden to see what could be divided and potted up for the sale. Remember that time spent digging, dividing and potting plants for the sale counts as volunteer time.

Finally, the Plant Sale offers a prime opportunity to introduce The Garden Door to community members who have not yet discovered this treasure. So, it's important that it look its best for the sale. The Garden Door Committee will be scheduling a garden cleanup date in the near future. Watch for details and help out if you can.

I can't emphasize enough how important the annual Plant Sale is to the success of our organization. Please consider doing what you can to make it a success, both on the day of the event, and, more importantly, before the event.

Mike Van Ess

DCMGA Board of Directors and Officers:

President Mike Van Ess
Vice President..... Chris Gritzmacher
Treasurer Wendy Woldt
Secretary Holly Green
Immediate Past Pres.....Kathie Vavra
Board Members: Bill Freyman, Jim McFarlin, Tim Kazmierczak, Jim Baxter, Jim Friedrichs
State Board Representative Rod Bohn

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 Minutes—March 16, 2015 by Holly Green

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Pres. Mike VanEss.

Board Members present: Christine Gritzmacher, Wendy Woldt, Holly Green, Jim McFarlin, Jim Friedrichs, Bill Freyman, and Tim Kazmierczak.

Other Members Present: Rod Bohn, Linda Zolnosky, and Karen Kidd.

Absent Board Members: Kathie Vavra and Jim Baxter.

Secretary's Report: Previous minutes approved, moved by Bill F., seconded by Jim F.

Correspondence reviewed regarding donation request of \$50 by WIMGA annual conference. Mike sent a "thank you" letter to the anonymous donor of \$10,000 for TGD.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy discussed current budget reports in detail. Report approved with motion by Jim M., seconded by Bill F.

Old Business:

Unbudgeted Expense Requests:

AED purchase: Bill F. has letter ready to go out via email, snail mail to all members regarding call for donations to fulfill our third of the total cost for the AED. Donations to be requested first, balance to be made up by DCMGA.

Signs: Directional signs at PARS to direct people to The Garden Door would cost approximately \$900 including installation and materials (for three signs). DCMGA looking at possible donation of materials.

Tents: Tim reports that two more heavy duty tents are needed for special events, at an approximate cost of \$438.

Wendy noted that the budget is \$1000 for purchase of long-term items.

Motion made by Wendy and seconded by Bill F. to approve purchase of the directional signs with the cost not to exceed \$1000, and that the AED purchase would be made with donations. The motion passed. Purchase of the tent(s) was tabled until the July Board meeting.

Emergency Response Plan: PARS has a plan for its own personnel, but none for visitors, DCMGA. Crossroads has no emergency plan. It was suggested DCMGA contact county emergency services for information and advice on setting up a plan.

New Business:

Goal Setting Meeting: Bill F. listed suggested goals; how to implement, who, and what to be discussed at a later meeting. Motion made by Jim M. and seconded by Chris to approve goals as stated was passed.

Board Meeting Minutes *(continued)*

PARS Agreement: A copy of the PARS agreement was made available. Jim M., Mike, Kathie and Kerry Vavra attended a meeting with Matt Stasiak of PARS. Notable issues that came from that meeting included: Raised beds would not be erected in TGND – no hardscape structures or obstacles to disking. Also discussed was a hedge between the compost piles and TGD, signs to keep people out of PARS grapes behind TGD, no compost is to be taken from PARS pile, TGND not cleaned up properly last year. Holly made a motion, seconded by Jim M. to accept PARS agreement. Motion passed.

**Gretchen Schmelzer of the newly formed Door Co. Beekeepers Club stopped by to ask if DCMGA might act as umbrella organization for them in order to apply for a Raibrook Grant. She was asked to provide more information for consideration at a future Board meeting.

Extension Agent: Mike V. attended a meeting regarding the search for a new extension agent. Funding is 60% from the state, 40% from the county.

Committee Reports:

Education: The Education Committee and The Garden Door Committee will work together to improve the educational/informational aspects of TGD. Current programs are continuing.

Plant Sale: List of perennials/other plants to order should be out soon. Anything smaller than 1 gallon container will not be available.

The Garden Door: The Long Range Planning Comm. and Garden Door Comm. are now separate. Tim would like aerial photos of TGD. Also discussed was arborvitae removal, bidding proposals for pavers, paver sealing, signs, and tents. Tim noted that Birch Creek Music Center would be coming to TGD July 17 or 21. More info to come.

Training: Current classes coming to an end, all going well. A request was made to purchase a laptop for next year's class. Could we use old one from Newsletter?

Open House: No report.

Taste of The Garden Door: The Taste will have sponsors this year, and the Chairs will send a letter and meet personally with the sponsors.

Newsletter: Jeanne White will be taking over as Editor of the Newsletter; Chris will remain as "backup". The DCMGA Goals will be put in the Newsletter.

Outreach: No report. Social: No report.

Publicity: No report. Sunshine: No report.

State Report:

Rod reports that a recent survey shows members prefer member produced information rather than staff produced material in the WIMGA newsletter. Two committees are sorting out this info.

The Face to Face meeting is April 4th and open to all. The State Conference is to be the end of July in LaCrosse.

Misc.:

Rod Bohn will be giving a talk about Orchids at his home on Saturday, March 21, at 1.00 p.m.

Seed starting will begin in the greenhouse on Saturday, March 21, at 9 a.m. All members encouraged to help.

DCMGA is on Facebook, Google Plus, and Pinterest.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, MAY 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Chris and Tim moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.



The Garden Door

Garden Door Notes

By Vicki Dirst

The Garden Door Committee Meeting — March 9, 2015

Present: Tim Kazmierczak, Jim McFarlin, Vicki Dirst, Allen Miller, Jo Ann Tarczewski, Kerry Vavra, Kathie Vavra, Wendy Woldt, Jim Friedrichs, Chris Gritzmacher, Mike Van Ess, Jim Baxter, Kaylynn Litersky, Linda Lambert, Alan Romsos, Barbara Allmann, Dick Allmann, Chriss Daubner, Doug Henderson, Barbara Henderson, Barb Ottum, Dale Vogel, Carol Berglund

Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 5:19.

Garden Door Map: Tim revealed an enlarged copy of Vicki's 2010 map of TGD. It will remain in the classroom for future reference. Tim asked Bay Flyers of DC if they may be able to provide aerial photographs of the garden. They will let him know after their March board meeting.

Arborvitae Removal: Garden area supervisors who are interested in removing large arborvitae are asked to send Tim an email prior to the next committee meeting. The email should specify which trees, the reason for requested removal, and the intent to fill the void. While PARS will perform most of the work, people should also indicate if they will be able to assist. Jo Ann asked about views after removal and wind protection. Mike cautioned not to remove too much.

Pavers Phase II: Although in our last committee meeting Tim agreed to get more estimates for Phase II of the paver project, in our November committee meeting we agreed to put the project on hold for one year. Doug urged us to proceed with getting cost figures to inform long range planning. Tim will get estimates before our next meeting.

Brick Engraving: As discussed at our last committee meeting, gift bricks at the Maritime Museum cost them \$30 and sold for \$150. This does not include the cost of installation and maintenance. The current thought is to install such bricks in the tunnel when additional paving is done in the future. Wendy asked details on materials, dye lots, etc. Kathie talked about the advertising benefits. Allen recommended talking to Gary Kemp, since he is involved in a similar project in northern Door.

Committee Report Forms: Please have all forms completed before the upcoming board meeting. Send them to Martha Burris.

Signs: Last summer the sign committee developed a proposal (with options) for how to direct visitors to TGD. Jim M. talked about the sign discussion with Matt Staziak (PARS). Jim recommends we start with two new signs costing \$221 each. Chris G. said we have nothing budgeted for this. Barb O. painted the sign by the parking lot, but it needs new posts. Kerry said raising the existing sign at the PARS entrance was another possibility. Allen asked about putting paint on the pavement. Doug moved that we approach the board to get approval for the funds to put in the two new signs and to replace the posts on two existing signs. Chris G. seconded. The motion carried.

The Garden Door Committee Meeting — March 9 *(continued)*

Raised Beds: This was not discussed.

Tent Purchase: At our last committee meeting Tim reported that 10 x 10 foot tents cost about \$150. Linda said they need two additional tents for the Taste. Wendy said tents are not in the current budget. Chriss D. moved that we purchase two new durable white 10 x 10 foot tents. Doug seconded. The motion carried. The matter will go to the board for approval.

Spudmobile: Tim said we are waiting for a response as to the availability of the Spudmobile for the Open House. He expects to hear from them by mid-March. Vicki asked for Tim to let her know so this can be used in magazine advertising. Jim M. said Elisa Bloechl will be our contact for advertising in the Door County Advocate.

Recognition Board: Doug said the long range planning committee discussed having a recognition board to thank our external benefactors. Allen recommended against placing such a board in TGD and expressed concern that some people will feel slighted if they are not named. Jim M. said grant writers should be sure to write letters of thanks to donors. Doug said we should continue to express thanks to Raibrook and invite them to events.

PARS Meeting: Four DCMGA members participated in the annual meeting with the PARS. As noted above, subjects included signs and arborvitae removal. Matt Staziak agreed that the piles of compost and mulch are not a nice sight, and he is open to doing something to screen the piles. Tim said this would also help discourage visitors from going into the grapes. Allen offered to look into inexpensive ways to block the unwanted views while still maintaining our access to the piles. Regarding the Garden Next Door, Matt reaffirmed that he does not want people driving back there, and he said no to any permanent structures in that area. Tim will ask Matt how much mulch the station will need this year.

Irrigation: Alan Romsos volunteered to be our irrigation technician. He was warmly thanked by those present.

Paver Sealing: Allen researched various sealers. He asked what type we prefer and people said matte finish. We can apply the sealer ourselves, but certain quality sealers may only be available through a landscaper. Allen will contact Sterling Landscape Service, Sunnypoint, and Bissen to explore costs. Tim thinks the total area is about 3,000 square feet.

Area Supervisors: Jim B. reported that some grasses will need to be removed because they are listed as invasive. Other grasses need to be divided and the surpluses sold. Kerry announced that there will be some plots available in the Garden Next Door. Barb A. asked where to put prunings. The Hendersons proposed doing garden cleanup two weeks before the plant sale.

Other Discussion: Jo Ann talked about having a jazz group from Birch Creek play at the garden pergola one evening between July 16th and Aug. 9th. Tim asked Jo Ann to secure a date and determine the cost.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54. The next meeting will be May 11th.

Reminder: Compost & Mulch at The Garden Door and Garden Next Door

- The DCMGA has an agreement with PARS that allows us to use space for The Garden Door (TGD) and Garden Next Door (GND). As part of that agreement, PARS provides us with a composting area for plant materials removed from TGD and GND. ***We can put plant materials into compost piles that PARS maintains, but we cannot remove compost from the compost piles at PARS for TGD or GND.*** DCMGA purchases mulch for use in TGD and GND paths.

Door County Master Gardeners Association Goals for 2015

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.

Wisconsin Master Gardeners State Goal: "The goal of the MG Program is to train enthusiastic volunteers so they can, in turn, provide research-based information on a wide variety of horticultural topics to the general public in their communities."

GOAL SETTING

The 2015 Goal Setting Workgroup approached goal setting by recognizing that:

This set of goals must be directly tied to the three core activities of DCMGA mission statement.

This set of goals must address specific DCMGA needs and focus the work of the organization.

This set of goals must be achievable in number and scope.

The workgroup reviewed previous sets of goals and spent time discussing specific issues that seem to immediately face the organization. It then completed its work by creating this set of goals hoping to move the organization toward a path of constant improvement and organizational refinement.

2015 GOALS

EDUCATION: The DCMGA shall prioritize the use of The Garden Door as a component of the organization's educational programs and activities, enhancing the amount of up-to-date educational material about the garden's collections available through various media to the garden's visitors.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: The DCMGA shall review and revise if necessary the procedures instituted during the past two years regarding the adoption, management, and evaluation of community outreach projects sponsored by DCMGA members.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT: The DCMGA shall assure that actions promoting stewardship of the environment are included in all DCMGA programs and activities.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS:

The DCMGA board shall develop policies, procedures or activities that identify, develop, and train individuals to smoothly and confidently assume leadership roles within the organization.

The DCMGA board shall define the board/committee relationship to assure that committee chairs and members understand the full extent of their responsibilities and decision-making parameters.

The DCMGA board shall review and evaluate current risk management issues and plans, including insurance coverages.

The DCMGA board shall take action to freshen, simplify and unify the organization's web presence.

The DCMGA board shall formally review the organization's goals mid-year.



“Organic – What Does It Mean ... and What’s the Cost?”

On February 3, 2015, the Master Gardeners welcomed Nancy Santoriello (left) of Santoriello Landscape Management to Crossroads at Big Creek to speak about organic landscaping. Nancy is also an active member of the Door County Master Gardeners. A full house enjoyed Nancy’s entertaining and informative program that included helpful advice, including “Nancy’s Favorites” among commercially available products for organic gardening.

Nancy advised that “Organic” means different things depending on who you ask: a biologist (living things), chemist (carbon-based), interior designer (don’t ask), or the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), which sets requirements for “organic” practices and product labeling. The USDA’s regulated labels range from products “Made with Organic Ingredients” (must contain at least 70% organic ingredients, but cannot display the USDA/Organic seal) to “Organic” (contain at least 95% organic ingredients and display the USDA/Organic seal) and “100% Organic” which display the USDA/Organic Seal. These complex regulations allow certain exceptions. There are, however, no Federal standards for organic land use, such as landscaping and gardening.

Nancy described organic landscaping as defined by the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), which adapted organic agricultural principles and practices to landscaping. NOFA defines organic land care as a sustainable ecological system to promote and enhance biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. These practices restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony and beauty in gardens and landscapes by making minimal use of introduced products. In particular, the practices avoid using synthetic fertilizers, soil amendments or synthetic pesticides of any kind (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.). This type of land care seeks to build healthy soils to reduce the need for watering and fertilizing, to increase biodiversity and avoid invasive species, to reduce human and animal exposure to pesticides, and to protect water resources from pesticides and excess nutrients. NOFA provides training and accreditation for organic landscapers (see its website at organiclandcare.net for more information).

Nancy described examples of how to “manage our ecosystems” in both formal and informal gardens by following a few gardening principals. For example, adding native plants will increase biodiversity. Planting the right plant in the right place at the right time will conserve water usage. Energy consumption can be minimized by using plants, particularly perennials, to decrease maintenance and using materials that rely on fewer resources to produce and transport them to your landscape (e.g., compost and local products). She described the soil food web that depends on “the cooks of the soil” (microbes, worms, insects, birds and animals) to increase soil fertility and how “the cooks move away” when inorganic fertilizers are applied.

Nancy described how to switch to organic landscaping, which includes being patient as you learn to feed the soil and change your perception of beauty. Organic landscaping makes use of the nutrients in lawn clippings, minimizes watering, and removes disease vectors and pests, while providing habitats for beneficial organisms. Nancy described how to read labels on organic gardening products and consult the Organic Material Review Institute website (omri.org) for products that are “OMRI listed for organic use.” She described some of her favorite products for landscaping, including fertilizers, compost, compost tea, soil inoculants, pest and disease controls, and weed controls. She compared the costs of using two different organic fertilizers for the same square footage of lawn. And she provided a list of commercial sources for many organic gardening products.

Thanks to Bill Freyman who served as coordinator for this educational program and to all the MG’s who donated or served refreshments for the intermission.



Door County's Role in Cranberry Production

On February 24, 2015 the Master Gardeners welcomed Ron Amos (left), president of Evergreen Nursery in Sturgeon Bay to describe how cranberries are grown and how Evergreen Nursery contributes to commercial cranberry production by serving as a propagator of selected cranberry plants and root stock for cranberry growers in Wisconsin and other states. If you weren't already a cranberry fan, Ron's informative and enthusiastic description of cranberry production could have changed your outlook on this tart native fruit.

Cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) are one of only three fruits native to North America, the other two being blueberries and Concord grapes. Cranberries probably got their name from "Craneberry", the name that Native Americans used to describe the shape of the plant's flower. Native Americans collected the berries in low areas carved out by glacier action on land that is now in northeast and north central North America. Cranberry cultivation by European settlers started in Massachusetts in 1816 and in Wisconsin in 1860. Both states have the acidic soil and water supplies needed for cranberry production. In Door County, cranberry beds were planted on Kellner Fen where remnants of those fields can still be seen.

Cranberry plants grow as vines by runners that send out fruiting upright branches. Vines or plant plugs are typically planted in trenched fields from which some topsoil has been removed and replaced by about two inches of sand into which the vines or plugs are planted. Establishment of a cranberry field requires careful irrigation, tending and overwintering vines for good fruit production (see the wiscran.org website for more information on cranberry farming). Starting fields from vine cuttings usually requires 3 years for full fruit production: the first year for rooting, the second year for vine growth and some fruiting, and the third year for full fruit production. Starting from plant plugs shortens the time to full fruit production to two years because the plants in plugs have roots. Established fields may contain plants that are not the originally planted cultivars because throwbacks from the planted hybrids or new hybrids resulting from self-seeding and fruit drop in the field. All commercial cranberry production relies on cultivars made by standard plant breeding and hybridization techniques. Cultivars are selected for desired fruit characteristics, such as darker or lighter colors, uniform colors, higher sugar content and taste. Planting from plugs provides a rapid method for establishing the new cultivars and allows cranberry growers to have a more uniform density of pure plant varieties in a field.

In addition to discussing cranberry growing and harvesting, Ron also briefly described commercial practices for processing cranberries, including washing, sorting, grading fruited (originally for "bounce"), and packaging for different markets. For example, cranberries for juice are frozen for about 3 months to increase juice production. The process for making sweetened dried cranberries, however, remains a trade secret.

Ron described Evergreen Nursery's role as a key propagator of cranberry cultivars for commercial growers. The nursery works with the three main cranberry breeder facilities in the United States, including the University of Wisconsin, which develop new varieties of cranberry plants. From plant materials received from the breeders, the nursery grows stock plants in hanging baskets under trickle irrigation to avoid any stray cranberries that might seed in field soil. The baskets produce vines of about 5-6 feet long. The vines are cut into about 2 inch sections and the cuttings are packed to maintain their bottom to top polarity. Cuttings are planted in plugs in proper orientation, i.e., bottom in soil for rooting and then maintained in a greenhouse for about 6 weeks with misting to establish plant plugs. These plugs are then shipped in about May for field planting by growers. By growing and propagating pure strains of cranberry varieties, Evergreen Nursery is helping maintain a constant supply of healthy cranberry plants to growers of this native plant that has become a commercial success.

Thanks to Sandy Ott who served as coordinator for this educational program and to all the MG's who donated or served refreshments for the intermission.



Invasives! The New List

On March 3, 2015, the Master Gardeners educational program featured Kari Hagenow, the Door County Invasive Species Coordinator (contact information: khagenow@lnc.org or dcist@gmail.com). Kari provided helpful information on how invasive species are identified and listed to be effectively regulated and managed throughout Wisconsin. Kari is part of the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) which cooperates with others, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Door County Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and The Ridges. After reviewing Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule (Chapt. NR40, Wis. Adm. Code) that defines how invasive species are categorized, she described proposed changes to the NR40 introduced in December 2014 and reviewed some of the most common newly listed invasive plant species. Kari's handouts included a color poster of invasive plants found in Door County, a summary of proposed species changes for NR40, and instructions on how to dispose of invasive plants responsibly to prevent their spread.

Rule NR40 defines harmful species as "prohibited species" that are not yet widely established in Wisconsin and pose a great economic or environmental threat. Prohibited species may not be transported, transferred, possessed or introduced without a permit; and control of existing populations is required. A "restrictive species" poses great economic or environmental threat, but is already widely established in the state, so they may be possessed, but may not be transported, transferred or introduced without a permit, and control of existing populations is encouraged. A "split-list species" is prohibited in some counties and restricted in other counties. Proposed changes to NR40 include language for a phase-out period for plants newly listed as "restricted species" only, which would allow transport, transfer or introduction without a permit for up to 3 years from listing for herbaceous plants and woody vines, and up to 5 years for newly listed trees and shrubs. There is no phase-out exemption for newly listed "prohibited species." For some of the newly listed prohibited species, there may be exemptions for certain cultivars and hybrids. Thus, it is important to check the lists for details on the newly listed prohibited plants and restricted plants.

Kari selected some of the newly listed invasive plants to discuss in more detail because they are most commonly found. The newly listed prohibited species include *Digitalis lantana* (Grecian foxglove), *Impatiens glandulifera* (Policeman's helmet), and *Lythrum virgatum* (Wanded loosestrife). The newly listed restricted species include *Artemisia absinthium* (Wormwood), *Lysimachia vulgaris* (Garden yellow loosestrife), *Lysimachia nummularia* (Moneywort or Creeping Jenny), and *Valeriana officinalis* (Garden heliotrope).

Kari provided helpful information on what we can do to help control invasive plants. She advised us to get to know the regulated plants (take the list along when shopping for plants) and to not buy or distribute them. She urged us to control restricted species on our property and remove prohibited species from our property. The DCIST handout ("Compost with Care") provided information on how to prevent the spread of invasive species to new locations from discarded plants or parts. She reminded us that it is illegal to buy, sell or give away prohibited species. She said we can also prevent the spread of invasive plants by not carrying their seeds on shoes or clothing to new locations when you leave an area where restricted or prohibited species grow.

Thanks to Sarah Freyman who served as coordinator for this educational program and to all the MG's who donated or served refreshments for the intermission.

UPDATE ON THE CLASS OF 2015

The Class of 2015 have completed their formal Wisconsin MG training in March and celebrated by bringing wonderful treats and flowers to thank the training team at their last class! In addition, the class members performed a skit in garden style! If you have not already viewed the short video that Michelle Kemp sent via email, check it out.

This class has been delightful and the Training Committee members have enjoyed these weeks. We look forward to welcoming Carrie Sherrill, Christine Holicek, Jennifer Bender, Karen Kidd, LuAnn Desotelle, Penny Beerntsen, Sean Beck and Ginny Zdenahlik as new members. Watch for them at the Green House and the Plant Sale. Their enthusiasm is contagious!

The Training Committee:

Rod Bohn, Jim McFarlin, Allen Miller, Gary and Michelle Kemp, Kerry and Kathie Vavra

Plant Sale Volunteer Opportunities

Our annual Plant Sale will be on May 30th and our success depends on the help of our members working together on the various tasks that lead up to the sale. We appreciate all the people who come to the greenhouse to plant, but we need help in other areas too. Check out the following list of areas that need volunteers.

Check and water plants at the Greenhouse. The plants must be checked twice a day, every day and watered as needed, so we can use people who agree to take one or more times on a regular schedule. We also need people to fill in as substitutes if one of the scheduled volunteers cannot make their scheduled day. [Sign up in the greenhouse or contact Jean Emke to volunteer for day and time slots that need to be filled.](#)

Dig, pot and donate perennials from your garden for the sale. Black plastic pots are in the barn if you need them. Please identify each donated perennial with a plant marker stick that includes the plant name (botanical), cultivar, color, sun or shade needs, etc. Blank plant marker sticks will also be in the barn. Donated perennials are a big part of our successful plant sales, so please look around your gardens for plants to donate and start digging when the ground thaws.

Make perennial and annual signs by using a format provided in a Word document.

Make plant markers for the annuals. This could involve word processing to make the adhesive labels, putting the labels on sticks, or both.

Organize perennials for the sale and assist at the members-only presale on May 27th.

Help set up for the sale on May 29th at the Peninsular Agriculture Research Station.

Help at the public Plant Sale on May 30th.

Please contact Chriss Daubner to let her how you can help.

DEADLINES

DCMGA Members' Plant Preorders — Deadline is April 6th

Please check your emails for important information from Chriss Daubner, sent March 20 (for Perennials) and March 29 (for Specialty Annuals), about pre-sale plant orders, plant availability, and prices. Orders for plants to be purchased by DCMGA members at the members-only presale must be sent to Chriss Daubner **on or before April 6, 2015.**

Chriss's emails included lists (PDF and Excel formats) of perennials (Mar. 20) and annuals (Mar 29) that are available for members to order for the members pre-sale. To place your order, you can use the Excel worksheet by entering the number ordered for your selected plants on the worksheet, deleting rows for plants you don't want, and saving ("Save As") your order list under your name. Attach your saved Excel order to an email and send it to Chriss Daubner, or print it and mail it to her. You can print your order sheet and bring it to the pre-sale plant pick-up. If you prefer, print out the PDF of offered plants from Chriss's email, mark it to show the plants and number that you want, and mail the marked order to Chriss. Alternatively, you can email Chris Daubner with information on the names of the plants you want (botanical name, cultivar), number of each that you want, and their cost.

For area supervisors at The Garden Door: if you want to order plants from the pre-sale lists for your area at TGD, please order them separately from your personal order. Put your name and TGD area name on the order and **send it to Chriss by April 6th**. Payment for the plants for TGD will come directly from your area's budget; you do not have to pay for them at the pre-sale. Make sure your area's budget has sufficient funds for the order.

The pre-sale is tentatively scheduled for May 27th. Watch your emails for more information on the date and time.

DCMGA Members Garden Tools Order — Deadline is April 4

Kaylynn Litersky will be putting in an order for Japanese garden sickles and soil knives as described in her email sent in the March 27th "DCMGA x 4" email. The Japanese garden sickle is from Big Bear Tools. The Deluxe Soil Knife with Sheath is from A.M. Leonard Horticultural Tool & Supply Co. Check Kaylynn's March 27th email for "the best prices for these great tools!"

If you want to order either of these two items, please let Kaylynn Litersky know by Friday, April 4.

Garden Plots Available at the Garden Next Door — Deadline is May 1

There will be room in the Garden Next Door for MG's interested in having a garden plot. Everyone who uses a plot in the Garden Next Door must agree to the requirements of our agreement with PARS, which Kerry Vavra can send you. Please call or send Kerry an email using his contact information in the DCMGA Membership Roster.

Any member interested in a plot should contact Kerry Vavra before May 1st.

DCMG Leadership Opportunities

Spring offers opportunities for you to learn, volunteer and take responsibility for key positions in our organization. Our showcase gardens at PARS and our Educational program are looking for people to lead in key areas. Our experienced people will help new volunteers get started. All of the positions listed below could be shared by two or more MG's. Sharing responsibility helps to lighten the load and is an opportunity to share ideas and time with someone who has similar interests.

Please talk to the contact person(s) listed below for more information on these position.

Position	Description	Contact Person
<i>Pond Supervisor</i>	Maintain the pond & surrounding plants at The Garden Door	Jim McFarlin
<i>Garden Next Door Supervisor</i>	Oversee use of the garden plots and paths in the Garden Next Door, consistent with PARS activities	Kerry Vavra
<i>Education Committee Chair</i>	Head the group that organizes DCMGA educational Programs and events such as field trips	Bill Freyman Sarah Freyman

Please Complete Your Committee Reports

If you have been a committee chairperson or head a subcommittee, please fill out a Committee Report form that briefly summarizes your area of responsibility, experiences, time commitments, etc. based on 2014. As our organization grows, we need to compile information on the various areas of responsibility within the organization. This information also makes it easier for other volunteers to step into a new position as a committee or subcommittee head. Please to fill out a Committee Report form to share your experience, even if you plan to continue in your current role. Time spent on filling out the form counts for your volunteer hours.

The Committee Report Form is a writeable document on the dcmga.org web site. On the home page, click on the "Members Only" tab (in the left column) and look for the "Committee Chair Forms". Please send a copy of your filled-in form to Chris Gritzmacher who will forward it to Martha Burris. And copy your chairperson if you are a subcommittee head.

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!

Check dcmga.org Website for Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks to all DCMG's who participate in events throughout the year, from spring clean up, seed planting, greenhouse work and Plant Sale, the Open House, and Taste of the Garden Door events, all of our educational events to inspire and educate gardeners, and for contributing to our social culture. All MG volunteers help make our organization and community better. Please check the dcmga.org website for information on volunteer opportunities.





DCMGA Educational Programs for Spring 2015

DCMGA educational programs are offered to inspire, inform and entertain during the winter. Our programs are open to the public and will take place at 7 PM at Crossroads at Big Creek. Watch for emails from our hard-working Education Committee for specifics on our 2015 educational series as more programs are being developed. Also, MG's can help fulfill their MG volunteer hours by making and donating the always-appreciated treats served at the program intermissions.

March 31: Mark Draney of UW-Green Bay will talk about "Natural Enemies of Garden Pests".

April 21: Chriss Daubner, DCMGA member will talk about "Prairie Plants for the Garden."

April 28: Ray Rogers, Horticulturalist and Author will talk about "Spectacular Container Planting."

Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) 2015 Conference "Life is Gardening ... Learn from the Past ... Plant for the Future"

The 2015 WIMGA Annual Conference will be held July 31st and August 1st, 2015 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Conference events for Friday, July 31 will be at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin, and the Saturday, August 1 events will be at the La Crosse Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin, and at multiple off-site venues, to enable registrants to explore the flora, fauna, and indigenous beauty of the Seven Rivers Region. The Radisson Hotel and Conference Center is located next to the La Crosse Center, minimizing the need to travel by car or navigate the La Crosse area to move from lodging to the main conference venue. Both are located on the edge of the Mississippi River in Downtown La Crosse with easy access to stores, restaurants, and other areas of local interest.

The conference features two keynote speakers. On Friday evening, Roy Diblik will speak on "The Know Maintenance Approach" to horticulture. Roy is co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farm in Burlington, WI. On Saturday, Dr. Karen S. Oberhouser will speak on "Butterfly Mission." Karen is a Professor at the University of Minnesota, in the Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. The conference will offer many offsite workshops and break-out sessions. For a complete list of the events, including specific workshops and break-out sessions see the web site of the Bluff Country Master Gardeners (bluffcountrymastergardeners.org) under the "WIMGA 2015" tab.

**The Door County Master Gardeners' Newsletter
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Editor: Christine Gritzmacher
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April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Garden Tools Order Deadline
5	6 Pre-sale plant orders deadline	7 Ed. Comm. Mtg. 1-2 pm, PARS	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Ed Program 7 pm, CRBC	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Ed Program 7 pm, CRBC	29	30		

Event Locations: **PARS** = Peninsular Agricultural Research Station Classroom, and **CRBC** = Crossroads at Big Creek

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 GND plot signup deadline	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 TGD Comm Mtg 5:30 pm, PARS	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Board Mtg 5:30 pm, PARS	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 MG members plant pre-sale, PARS	28	29 Plant Sale setup, PARS	30 Plant Sale 9-12 am, PARS
31						