



**DOOR COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
NEWSLETTER**

Winter 2020 - Volume 26- Number 1

*A Volunteer Organization of the
UW-Cooperative Extension Service*



*“It was one of those March
days when the sun shines
hot and the wind blows cold:
when it is summer in the
light and winter in the
shade.”*

- Charles Dickens

President's Message

Greetings to All on this bright winter day!

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike VanEss!!!! Mike has been awarded a certificate of recognition for 2500 Hours of Volunteer Service! Mike also received an etched paper-weight. Awesome achievement!!!

A number of our members also received certificates for milestones of 250, 500, 750 and 1000 hours of volunteer service. Congratulations and THANK YOU for serving our organization and our community!

The Meet & Greet event was well attended. The Training Class Students shared some information about themselves and their interests. What a great group of people!

The Door County Seed Library has received seed donations from numerous seed companies, most notably Baker Creek which donated over \$900.00 of seed. Paul Kell, owner of Bonnie Brooke Gardens in Sturgeon Bay also donated seed packets valued at over \$900.00. Penne Wilson, her team and partner organizations will be working hard to establish new seed libraries at the Baileys Harbor, Forestville, Egg Harbor, Fish Creek, Sister Bay and Washington Island branches of the DC Library system this year. I'm sure Penne would appreciate more help. So please contact Penne and volunteer in anyway you can. THANK YOU Penne for your leadership!!!

DCMGA

Board of Directors & Officers

President - Jeanne Vogel
Vice President - Mary Moster
Treasurer - Shawn Mathys
Secretary - Sunny MacLachlan
Past President - Dorry Wilner

Board Members

Lee Ann Casper
Carrie Sherrill
Janet Uteg
Susan Morgan
Holly Green
Nancy Goldberg

UW-Extension Agent

Position open

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.

President's Message cont'd.

Planning for the Annual Plant Sale is in full swing. Co-chairs Nancy Goldberg and John Werblow and team have made selections and mapped logistics for the May 15-16 event. The pre-order plant list was recently posted on The Buzz, so be sure to make your selections soon.

Claire Wick and Marsha Krzyzanowski sent an announcement via The Buzz calling all members with craft and creative skills to donated items to sell at the 1st Pick "Shabby Chic Garden Market". Please contact Claire or Marsha for more information.

DCMGA is a great team! Team Work To Make The Dream Work!!!

Jeanne



Mike Reflects

Mike VanEss has been a DCMGA volunteer for 25 years, was a member of the Board for 13 years and served as President - twice! And, as noted in the President's Message, he recently reached the milestone of 2500 MGVA hours! You'll learn more about Mike in the article on pages 16 and 17. Here are a few reflections he shared about the program here in Door County.

"In the beginning, I think I was committed to two things: continuing to learn and doing what I could to help establish a solid foundation on which the organization could grow. Now I think a desire to see the organization continue to thrive is my primary motivation.

"I have always been pleased and proud of how our group has evolved over the years. I don't think any of the original members could have envisioned that we would grow from our small core of 12 members to the 100+ member organization that we have become. I doubt that we could have envisioned how The Garden Door would evolve from a blank plot of land to the destination it's become. I've also been impressed with our ability to recruit new members that continue to foster the growth we enjoy. Given this, I have confidence in the future of the organization."



Notes from the Board of Directors

Here is information from the November 18, 2019 and the January 20, 2020 Board meetings. Complete minutes are available under Members Only on the website.

UW Extension: A new community project at Newport State Park will be added to the other state park projects at Peninsula and Potawatomi. Annie Deutsch is leaving her position as of December 31 to pursue an internship for ECHO in SW Florida with the goal of working in international agriculture. There is no information yet on when her position will be filled.

Membership: The final membership statistics are 82 active members, 10 inactive and 9 local members. The latter are affiliated with the group but pay only local dues and will not be expected to fulfill hours requirements.

Outreach (now Speakers & Tours): Memorial Day and October 1 were selected for start and end dates for docent-led tours in the Garden Door. Carrie Sherrill and Sue Kunz were featured speakers in November for the Door-Kewaunee Retired Educators Association.

Community Projects: The Newport State Park project was approved, as well an application to allow volunteer hours for LIR presentations by Master Gardeners. **Community Project supervisors should be regularly updating Carrie S. on activities.**

PARS : The 2020 agreement for use of the Station premises was approved. A new Station manager will be hired by March 2020. The Station would like more parking area for The Garden Door, which will be our responsibility.

UW Extension FoodWise Presentation: Laura Apfelbeck, coordinator for Door, Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties, notified the Board of a \$2500 grant available per county in Wisconsin, designed to help low-income residents by focusing Master Gardener efforts on growing fresh local produce for donation to food pantries and community-based meal sites. Various opportunities and options were discussed.

Door County Seed Library: Our fiscal sponsorship agreement with the DCSL was reviewed as required annually. Penne Wilson asked that the Board consider extending the agreement beyond the expiration date of March 20, 2021.

Thanks for These Generous Donations!

DCMGA received two generous donations in December. The Lutsey Family Foundation - Waseda Farms donated \$492 from their "Save the Bag" initiative. A gift of \$500 was also received from the Joseph and Gwenn Graboyes Fund of the Door County Community Foundation. Many, many thanks to both for their support!

Notes from the Education Committee

Chris Holicek will be ending her tenure as Education Chair this spring. We thank her for her hard work! The education programs offered to the public have been outstanding.

Here is information from the meeting of November 12, 2019 and additional information from Chris.

A FALL SEMINAR will be held Saturday, November 7, 2020 at Crossroads. The Committee wanted a speaker to present on a healing/therapy/sensory theme. A second topic would be plant/garden based. When we looked at the list of Mark Dwyer's topics, he had both. We have agreed that he will be the speaker. His fee for the day will be \$500, which includes mileage from Janesville. He will be doing two 90-minute presentations: Plants for Therapy and The Edible Garden. There will be a lunch included.

Tuesdays in The Garden Door will take place during three months this year: July 9, August 11 and September 15. Suggestions for topics are welcomed and should be directed to Sue Kunz and Carrie Sherrill.

Summer Field Trips have been discussed. A coordinator is needed. Two possibilities are Solaris Farms to see Nate Bremer's peonies and members' private gardens.

Winter Education Programs are underway. Speakers and topics are listed on pages 6-7.

Upcoming WDOR 93.9 FM Programs



March 19: Monthly Update. We will talk about navigating seed catalogs and choosing appropriate seeds for Door County. We will touch on starting seeds indoors. Laurie Connell will join in to talk about Perennial gardening and the Meditation Garden area at The Garden Door.

April 16: Monthly Update. Earth Month update and Plant Sale information. "First Pick" event coordinators Marsha Krzyzanowski and Claire Wick will talk about this event.

May 21: Monthly Update. Preparing the garden for planting. Hardening off plants. Good places to view Spring ephemerals in Door County. Dora Leonardson will talk about straw bale gardening, Penne Wilson will discuss the Door County Seed Library.

Notes from The Garden Door

Garden topics were on the agenda at the November 11, 2019 and January 13, 2020 meetings.

The limestone informational sign has been installed near the large limestone rock in the Pollinator Garden. Carl Scholz was recognized for his attention to this needed piece of information. Doug Henderson and Wendy Woldt were recognized for their assistance with the project.

Four diseased and dying trees including the Gingerbread Paperbark Maple were removed in January by Dale Vogel. He spoke with Dick Wiedman about taking on the responsibility of monitoring trees in the Garden. Dick will do so.

The invasive Akebia vine will be removed. There was discussion on how to remove the vine from the dome.

The "Color of the Year" is Classic Blue. We are encouraged to use the color along with the anniversary silver and white. A number of blue flowers will be grown in the Greenhouse. Some members expressed an interest in blue t-shirts instead of grey.

The proposed "photo board" was discussed. This is a board with cutouts in it for people's faces. The idea has the go ahead, but there are questions about the size.

Dale V. has measured the expanded parking lot area for TGD that is requested by PARS. He is working on bids.

Silver Anniversary Update

The celebration party for MG members and the public is Saturday, September 12 in TGD. There will be child friendly lawn games; there may be bouquets for sale. The musical group Guitarola has been mentioned. Garden supervisors are encouraged to use the silver curly willow which will be available for their garden area containers.



DCMGA Winter/Spring Education Programs

All education programs are held at 7:00 PM at Crossroads at Big Creek, Sturgeon Bay. The perfect opportunity to get those all-important education hours!

March 3 - Ben Futa (Allen Centennial Gardens): *Brown is a Color, Too*

Late fall and early winter are not typically considered a time of excitement in the garden, yet there's still so much to see and experience. This presentation explores inspirational plant combinations and maintenance methods for enhancing a garden in November and beyond.

March 10 - Dr. Mike Draney (University of Wisconsin - Green Bay): *Spiders and People, An Uneasy Relationship*

Spiders have always made an impression (often dark or negative) in human culture. Mike will talk about this interesting relationship and how you can come to a more comfortable place with the spiders you share your environment with.

March 31 - Charlotte Lukes (Door County Naturalist): *How to Attract, Feed and House Birds*

This new program will be ideal for people who wish to use native plants in their bird garden. It identifies many birds that you may see in your yards and shows ways to keep critters off the bird feeders. It features many native trees, shrubs and wildflowers, plus it shows autumn berries.

April 7- Dr. Molly Doane (University of Illinois - Chicago): *Sanctuary Gardens- Refuge in the City*

Molly's research explores how migratory human and non-human beings learn to grow and flourish in a city of steel and glass. Through the lens of plants, she explores the connections between nature, health, and growing roots. All throughout the city, people otherwise dislodged or in flux—because of changing health, ability, neighborhood or family situation—turn to plants and planting to grow new roots.

April 14 - Jamie Patton (UW - Madison): *Soil Health - It's More than "Just Dirt"*

Long gone are the days of calling soils "dirt". In this session, we will learn about the importance of soil organisms, ways to improve our soil habitats, and how healthy soils can promote plant, human and environmental health.



Winter Education Programs cont'd.

April 21 - Mark Konlock (Green Bay Botanical Garden): *Road Trippin' - Gardens of Wisconsin*

Join Mark on a tour of public gardens throughout the state of Wisconsin. See the colors, textures, and ideas from last season, get inspired ideas on how to make your garden amazing this year, and make plans to visit these gardens throughout the summer!



April 28 - Mark Dwyer (Landscape Prescriptions by MD): *Cool Coleus*

Relegated to the shade garden in the past, coleus are now "foliage focal points" in both the sunny and shady garden, as well as containers and hanging baskets. We'll examine a broad range of available varieties, and talk about how to effectively use them in the garden and how to best keep them alive and happy!

May 5 -Plant Sale Committee: *Preview of Plant Sale and Growing Tips*

This presentation will offer an informative discussion and quick peek at the Door County Master Gardeners Association's Annual Plant Sale scheduled for May 15-16, 2020. We'll talk about our Friday evening event called "First Pick" where ticketed participants will have the opportunity to be first to purchase plants as well as participate in a plant-related art raffle. (As has been the case for the past 25 years, the Saturday morning sale will be free and open



to the public.) There will be a slide presentation of the over 80 varieties of annuals and vegetable plants available for purchase. Also discussed will be the multiple varieties of donated and purchased perennials that show the full complement of plants to complete the sun and shade gardening needs of most gardeners.

DCMGA Events and Meetings

- Monday, March 2** Education Committee Meeting, PARS Classroom 9:00 AM
- Saturday, March 7** Greenhouse Orientation and Training, PARS 9:00 AM
NOTE: Safety training is now required for ALL greenhouse volunteers. If you would like to help in the greenhouse but cannot attend the training on March 7, contact Nancy Goldberg, nancy.goldberg50@gmail.com.
- Monday, March 9** The Garden Door Committee Meeting, PARS 5:30 PM
- Friday, March 13** Deadline for Perennial Pre-Sale orders
Pre-sale information was sent through The Buzz. Orders or any questions should be sent to Nancy Anschutz, nlanschutz@yahoo.com.
- Monday, March 16** Board of Directors Meeting, Crossroads 1:00 PM

NEW Master Gardeners Association Programs

The Northeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association is offering a series of programs this spring that may be of interest.

- Saturday, March 7** Mariette Novak, *Birdscaping in the Midwest* and *The Scoop on Nativars*
- Saturday, April 4** Susan Carpenter, *Native Plant Gardening for Pollinators*

All programs run from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and are held in the STEM Innovation Center at UW-Green Bay, 2019 Technology Way, Green Bay. For a brochure and registration information, visit www.newmastergardeners.org.



2019 Annual Meeting

The DCMGA Annual Meeting was held on October 29 at Crossroads. Fifty-three members, spouses and guests attended. Along with regular business of approving last year's meeting minutes, election of Board members and the Treasurer's Report, two changes were made to the by-laws. The job descriptions for Board members have been revised and updated, and the deadline for payment of dues was changed to November 15 to facilitate member records and state reporting. The new 25th Anniversary logo was unveiled as well. Complete minutes of the meeting are available on the DCMGA website.

After the meeting, members enjoyed social time with delicious appetizers, champagne and anniversary cake.



Above left: Fran, Laura and Helen enjoying cake and champagne.

Above right: Carrie's anniversary cake, decorated with sage leaves!

Left: Penne, Mike and Shawn appear to be collecting all the champagne glasses.



Winter is a Great Time to Socialize

Sixty-five members and guests attended the Holiday gathering held at Sevastopol Town Hall on December 3. It was a festive time with silver and red colors reflecting our 25th anniversary and the season. There were sparkly ornaments for all and many took home the creative table decorations. As always, the potluck buffet table was bountiful and featured many tasty creations.



Above left: Marsha K. was having way too much fun with the silver ornaments.

Above right: Social Committee co-chairs Donna Asher and Carrie Potier.

Right: Lonnie and Gary Vitse, Barb and Gary Henkelmann and others enjoying the festivities.



About 55 people attended the Meet and Greet event in January, to get to know the twelve new students in the 2020 class. There was lots of socializing, introductions, free seeds, a special "Silver trivia game," lots of prizes, and plenty of laughs. Kudos to members of the social committee who did an awesome job of decorating, set up and clean up.



Above: as always, lots of delicious food!



Above: Jeanne Vogel introducing the new class members.

Below: class members introduced themselves to the group.



Spotlight On Community Projects

Southeast of Crossroads, off of Utah Street and down Star Gazer Trail, is the Ray and Ruthie Stonecipher Door Peninsula Astronomical Center in Sturgeon Bay. Regular programs featuring the heavens are offered there for members and the public.

In 2014, Master Gardener Barbara Henkelmann, a long-time member of the Astronomical Society, mentioned to Ray Stonecipher that she had recently finished the Master Gardener training. Undoubtedly his eyes lit up, because he asked if the Master Gardeners might be interested in re-landscaping the area around the building. Years earlier, it had been landscaped as an Eagle Scout project, but grass had overtaken the plantings.

Barb got busy and submitted an application for a Community Project, received the go ahead and organized a committee including Mary Moster, Brian Burgee and Debbie Olsonowski. Jason Feldman, a local landscaper, was a "generous consultant." By September 2014, the plants Jason had ordered for them were ready for installation.

These were largely native plants like monarda, black-eyed Susans, coneflowers, penstemon and grasses such as Northwind switchgrass. There were also very appropriately named plants like Stargazer lilies, Moonbeam coreopsis and asters. The natives were a request of Coggin Herringa. (The Astronomical Center is actually on Crossroads land.) Native plants were the environmental choice and blend perfectly with the habitat.

The first step in readying the "blank slate" was tilling up the grass around the building. A few original plants, including Shasta daisies and lilacs, were saved and moved to a separate

area. Committee members along with Astronomical Society folks came out to work in two shifts. The morning shift planted and the afternoon group added mulch. Everything was done in a day.



Community Projects cont'd.

Barb says everything has grown really well. These days, the committee consists of Barbara, along with MG's Susan Morgan, Karen Isensee and Mary Moster. Barb's husband Gary often lends a hand and Astronomical Society members show up, too. People gather basically four times a season to mulch and weed. At times there is pruning to be done. There are a few trees and shrubs including a crabapple and a Ninebark. More workers are always welcome! Contact Barbara if you want to be involved.



The only "challenges" encountered that Barb mentions involve the mysterious disappearances of plants. She would plant coreopsis and the next week, was dismayed that the plants were gone. Then this happened again. A snake had been spotted living under the sidewalk. Could that have been the culprit?? Another time some Night Sky petunias completely disappeared three weeks after they were transplanted. Hmmm...

When you have the opportunity, check out the lovely site, which in addition to the building now landscaped, includes an observatory. A memorial monument for Ray and Ruthie, who both passed away in recent years, features cranesbill geraniums and a ginkgo tree, Ray's favorite.



Take "Note" of These Announcements

Preparations for the 2020 DCMGA Plant Sale have begun! The plant selection committees have again chosen some spectacular cultivars, some highlighting silver in celebration of our 25th anniversary. A listing of these plants will appear on the website soon. Claire Wick and Marsha Krzyzanowski are teaming up to make 'First Pick,' the Friday ticketed event, even more exciting than last year.

When recording your volunteer hours on the Online Reporting Systems (ORS), you can no longer include travel time in your hours.

Have you lost your nametag? Contact Carrie Sherrill to get a replacement.

Plant sale pre-orders are due to no later than March 13.

Congratulations to these DCMGA Volunteers for reaching the following milestones for volunteer hours during the 2018-19 year!

150 hours: Shawn Mathys, Jeanne Rabel, Ronda Schomburg.

250 hours: Vickie Daoust, Eugene Kenny, Linda Kolberg, Sue Kunz, Dora Leonardson, Susan Morgan, Jerry Saballus, John Werblow, Claire Wick, Mike Zolnosky.

500 hours: Nancy Anschutz, Deborah Javurek, Jeanne Vogel, Shirley Ziman.

750 hours: Nancy Goldberg, Holly Green, Barbara Henkelmann, Marsha Krzyzanowski.

1000 hours: Lee Ann Casper, Lucy Kile, Penne Wilson.

2500 hours: Mike VanEss.



Door County Seed Library

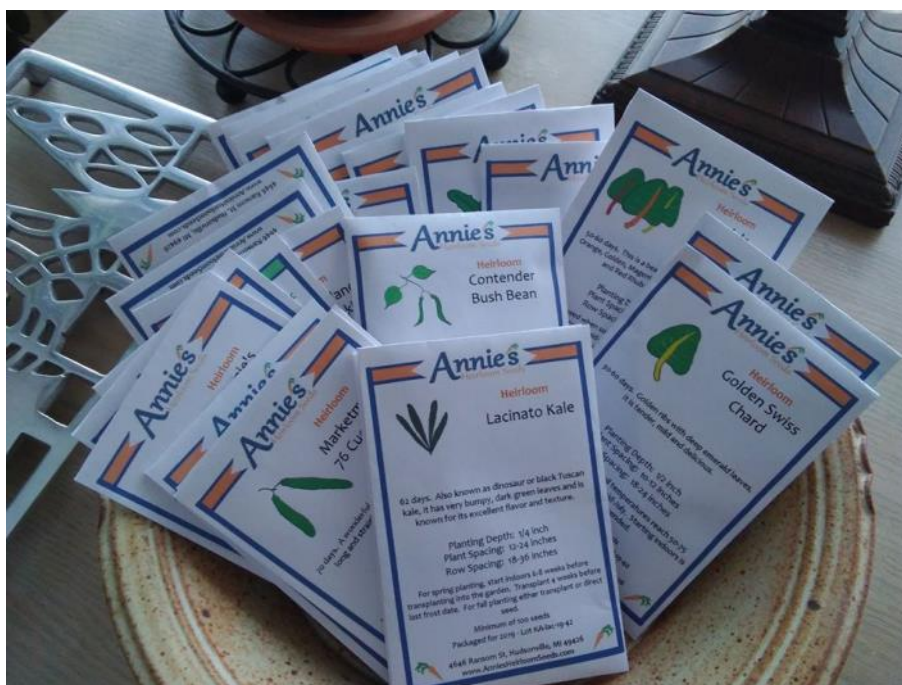
cultivating the power of seed...



The Door County Seed Library is off to a great start in 2020! In January, we held our second Seed Reads book club meeting (our book was Farmacology by Daphne Miller, M.D.), hosted a winter sowing class, and held our first community seed swap, which over 50 people attended. Additionally, Nancy Goldberg gave a presentation on seed libraries and seed saving techniques to the Sturgeon Bay High School's sustainability class. They were so excited about the information that Nancy shared that they've asked her to come back to talk to this semester's class.

Our grand re-opening is scheduled from 1 to 4 PM on Saturday, March 28 at the Sturgeon Bay Library. Karen Kidd will be teaching how to start seeds indoors classes at 1:30 and 2:30. Her classes were filled to capacity last year, so please come early to make sure you get a seat. Later this spring, we will also be offering classes on how not to hurt yourself when gardening, taught by physical therapist Ann Emmerich, and straw bale gardening, taught by Master Gardener Dora Leonardson.

Our most exciting news may be that we are working with the Door County Library to add seed libraries at six additional branches: Baileys Harbor, Fish Creek, Forestville, Egg Harbor, Sister Bay, and Washington Island. We plan to schedule meetings to discuss implementation



plans soon, so those of you who expressed an interest in volunteering will be getting an email from Penne Wilson shortly. Please like the Door County Seed Library on Facebook to keep up to date with our upcoming events and contact Penne at penne@pobox.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Member Spotlight: Mike VanEss

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are featuring our earliest members and learning about our history.

In 1990, Mike VanEss was contemplating which of three interests----acting, computers or gardening--- would be his major pastime of choice. "Gardening won," he says.

Mike first developed an interest in gardening while assisting his mother in the garden while he was growing up in Two Rivers. Later, living in Green Bay with no garden site available, he went all out with house plants, tending about 100 of them. Whenever he moved, the plants moved.

Mike took his Master Gardener training in Green Bay in 1992. After he moved to Sturgeon Bay two years later, Ag Extension agent Laura Wind-Norton announced the first MG training for Door County. Mike, hungry for more garden knowledge, wanted to get a Master Gardener group started here. He asked Laura if he could help facilitate the class. In turn, she offered to support a Master Gardener chapter in Door County.

It may be fair to say that 25-year member Mike VanEss has done more for the DCMGA, over a longer period of time, than any other member.

The members in that first class constituted the 12 charter members of the organization. At the time, it was decided to offer training every other year with no limit on the number of participants. That resulted in large classes of 40-50 and rapid growth, but significant attrition.



Mike says for the first couple of years they were a relatively small but enthusiastic group on the younger side. There were lots of social outings, like cook-outs and visits to garden sites. There was considerable leeway given by the Extension regarding what direction the fledging organization would go. With the visions they had, it was clear that the group would need to keep growing.

Mike served as President for the first two years. He says the two biggest undertakings were the Plant Sale and "The Show Garden" (now The Garden Door.) For several years, the group sold Weather Friend Calendars, a phenology calendar produced in Green Bay, as a fund-raiser.

Member Spotlight cont'd.

The Garden Door

It was Mike's idea to establish a public garden, created and maintained by the Master Gardeners. He is quick to add that Brian Holtz, also a charter member, did a lot of the preliminary work. Various locations were considered including Sunset Park in Sturgeon Bay.

But early in the process, PARS Superintendent Dick Weidman offered the area where The Garden Door currently exists. The space had apparently been used to trial annual flowers from seeds. The seeds were no longer provided by the seed companies, so the space became available. Dick took a strong interest in the project and put in the paths and lawn areas as well as planting the arborvitaes that originally surrounded the garden. Richard Briggs of Briggsville Gardens was the designer of the garden layout. (*Many more details about the History of the Garden Door may be seen on the DCMG website in a time-line Mike created, under the heading of The Garden Door.*)

Over the years, Mike continued his leadership and contributions to the group. He was President again from 2015 to 2018. He served on the Board for a total of 13 years, serving as the Treasurer for one term. For three years he was the newsletter editor. He was the organization's representative to WIMGA from 1995 to 1999 and served as WIMGA President in 1997. He maintains our website and is the man behind the BUZZ. He has continued a strong interest in The Garden Door and recently developed a map and new brochure for the public. He has become our unofficial historian.

In his regular working years, Mike used his degrees in Human Development while working for the Boy Scouts, Bowling Green University, SW Minnesota State University, and Fox Valley Hospital and Family Services. For nearly 21 years, he worked as a social worker for Door County Social Services, supervising the Adult Services Unit the final three years, before retiring in 2013.

These days, Mike's home gardening involves maintaining his yard and the perennial beds around his home. He still has about 20 houseplants. He relaxes while reading, watching old movies and entertaining his 12-year-old Cocker Gracie. To "get out of the house," he works part-time at the YMCA and uses the facility to exercise.

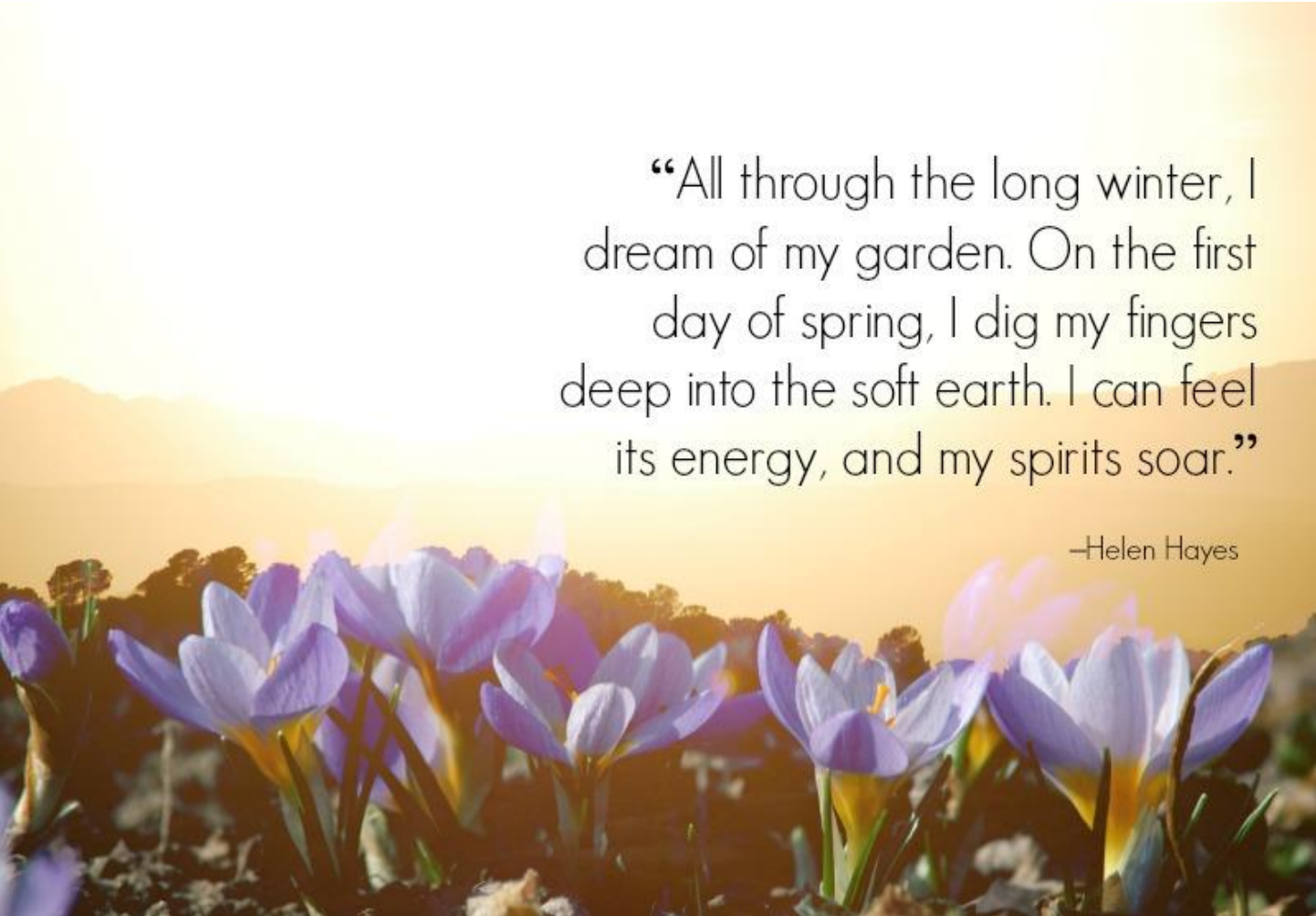
Whenever his considerable administrative, organizational, speaking and writing skills could be helpful, he has stepped up. Please thank him when you see him and congratulate him on earning 2500 Volunteer hours in his 25+ years (while still working during most of them!)

Congratulations!

2020 DCMGA Committee Chairs/Coordinators

Annual Meeting - Vice President
Community Projects - Carrie Sherrill
Education - Chris Holicek
Garden Door:
 Operations - Dale Vogel
 Plants - Carrie Sherrill, Sue Kunz
Financial - Nancy Anschutz
The Garden Next Door - **OPEN**
Newsletter Editors - Lee Ann Casper
 and Karen Newbern
Plant Sale - Nancy Goldberg, John Werblow

Speakers and Tours -
 Sunny MacLachlan
Social - Donna Asher, Carrie Potier
Social Media - Penne Wilson, Laura Maloney
 and MaryBeth Cleary-Phipps
Strategic Planning - Mary Moster
Sunshine - Holly Green
Training - Carrie Sherrill, Sue Kunz,
 Laurie Connell
Website - Mike VanEss
WIMGA Representative - Mike VanEss



“All through the long winter, I
dream of my garden. On the first
day of spring, I dig my fingers
deep into the soft earth. I can feel
its energy, and my spirits soar.”

—Helen Hayes