

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

Winter 2021 - Volume 27 - Number 1

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



*“Hope
Smiles from the threshold
of the year to come,
Whispering ‘it will be
happier’...”*

~ Alfred Lord Tennyson

President's Message

Happy New Year, everyone!

I'm honored and just a little daunted to be writing this – my first message as President of DCMGA. It's still the “old year” as I write, but I'm determined to look forward. I think few of us will regret saying goodbye to 2020, a challenging year by almost any measure.

I feel privileged to serve as president of our association and look forward to working with all of you. Let me take a moment to thank the team that has agreed to serve with me: Shawn Mathys as vice president, Laura Maloney as treasurer, and Sunny MacLachlan as secretary, and all the other members of the board. I'd like to extend a special thanks to Jeanne Vogel, who so ably served our association as president for two terms and now, as past president, will remain on the board as an officer. I am so thankful to have such a great team to help me as we move forward.

And move forward we must.

In her remarks at our virtual annual meeting in October, Jeanne talked about “change” as the theme for the year. Without question, 2020 brought more changes to our organization than perhaps at any other time in our history. While the changes were necessary, they weren't always easy to accept because some of the things we treasure most about DCMGA – the chances to work and have fun with others who are passionate about gardening – were the very things we had to give up temporarily.

DCMGA

Board of Directors & Officers

President - Mary Moster
Vice President - Shawn Mathys
Treasurer - Laura Maloney
Secretary - Sunny MacLachlan
Past President - Jeanne Vogel

Board Members

Lee Ann Casper
Janet Uteg
Susan Morgan
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.

Cont'd. on page 2

President's Message cont'd.

It wasn't easy, but we're resilient and we found ways to work through it all. I want to thank all of you, especially those who helped to bring The Garden Door back to life this summer.

Looking ahead to the coming year, there is no doubt that the pace of change will continue, even if the restrictions of COVID-19 are eventually lifted. A notable change is that we won't be launching a program to train a new class of Master Gardener students in January, as we have in other years. As most of you know, UW-Extension is in the process of testing and refining a new approach to Master Gardener training and certification. We anticipate that this new program, which is now being piloted in a few counties, will be introduced to all of us in 2021.

Once again, there will be change for us to absorb and adapt to, but there will also be something else. Opportunity. A goal of the new approach is to make Master Gardener training more accessible to a broader, more diverse group of people. The approach is designed to be flexible and provide more avenues for people at different stages of their lives to participate and volunteer for Master Gardeners. That should translate into new and different opportunities that can benefit DCMGA.

I'm looking forward to the coming opportunities with optimism and enthusiasm. I hope you will, too. Let's all work together for an exciting new year of change and growth for our association!

In appreciation for all you do,

Mary

Upcoming Board/Committee Meetings

**Until further notice, all Board and committee meetings will be held virtually.
Watch the Buzz for links to these meetings.**

The Garden Door Committee	Monday, January 11, 5:30 -7:30 PM
Board of Directors	Monday, January 18, 1:00 - 3:30 PM
Education Committee	Monday, March 1, 9:00 - 10:00 AM
The Garden Door Committee	Monday, March 8, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Board of Directors	Monday, March 15, 1:00 - 3:30 PM
Education Committee	Monday, May 3, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Notes from the Board of Directors

Here is information from the September 21 and November 16, 2020 Board meetings. Complete minutes are available under "Members Only" on the website.

Officers of the Association were elected from the Board. (See first page of the Newsletter.)



Holly Green remains as Sunshine chair. **Please contact her about any members who should receive a card.**

As of November 16, there were still a good number of members who had not sent their 2021 dues to Treasurer Shawn Mathys. Follow-up was planned.

Training classes for new members are on hold while the UW conducts a pilot program in four Wisconsin counties.

Plant Sale 2021 Report

Plans continue for a modified event. Forty people responded to the survey about the timing of the Plant Sale. Sixty four percent chose the weekend after Memorial Day with the rest divided evenly between the weekend before Memorial Day and the Memorial Day weekend. **So whatever we can have will be on May 28-29.**

Linda Kolberg is very interested in coordinating a perennial sale for members only. (Considering how much we order for ourselves, this is a nice fund-raiser.) Marsha Krzyzanowski and Claire Wick are willing and able to put their creative spin on an event to rival the Market they planned for 2020. We will hear more about that after the New Year.

On the not-so-good-news front, after a recent meeting with the Research Station staff it appears that the US Department of Agriculture will probably not allow us to use the Greenhouse this season. Use of the grounds for the sale is uncertain, too. We might be able to find an alternate location.

Everything depends on the status of the Coronavirus. Plant Sale Coordinator Nancy Goldberg stresses that the safety

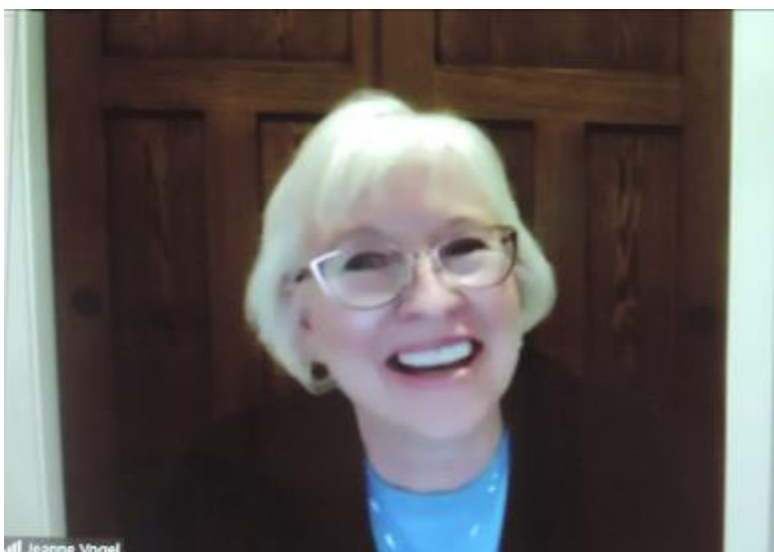


2020 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the DCMGA was held the evening of October 27, 2020 via Zoom. There were 34 attendees, all ensconced in the comfort of home.

Several important reports were given: the plant sale, Nancy Goldberg; the work of the State task force on training, Sue Kunz; and the Treasurer’s annual report, Shawn Mathys.

Mary Moster presented the Strategic Planning Committee’s proposed slate of three Directors standing for re-election: Sunny MacLachlan, Mary Moster, and Shawn Mathys, along with the nomination of Laura Maloney. There were no other nominees and the proposed slate was accepted.



President Jeanne Vogel spoke about the necessary changes we experienced during 2020. Our activity in the Greenhouse ended and so did our hope for another successful plant sale. There were no active Master Gardener Community projects. It was disappointing to miss the culmination of our 25th Anniversary.

Jeanne spoke of decisions, plans and choices to be made in 2021 and encouraged us to embrace change!

President Jeanne Vogel led the virtual meeting.

The complete details of the Annual Meeting may be found on the DCMGA website under Members Only/Minutes of Meetings.

Sue Kunz reported on the updated training procedures developed by UW-Extension. The new program was designed to be more relevant and more inclusive for current and incoming MG volunteers.



Notes from The Garden Door

The Garden Door Committee met via Zoom in September and there was an update compiled by Sue Kunz in November.

Lisa O'Dell and Lee Voeks, both class of 2020, are the new Shade Garden supervisors. They planted an Ironwood tree in the southeast corner and are moving forward with plans to gradually renovate the garden.

Laura Maloney was incredibly busy this summer working on the Memorial Garden renovation. The eradication of the invasive Ickebia (chocolate vine) is to occur in June with assistance from the Door County Invasive Team.

Lee Ann Casper, with assistance from Lee Voeks and Hugh Zettel, planted three upright blue junipers in the Rock Garden. Next spring some grasses from the "grass annex" will be added to create a screen at the back border of that garden.

Supervisors are needed for the Pergola Garden and the Kaleidoscope.

Pond repair will be done in spring. It is still to be decided if we will have koi in the pond.

Sue extends a HUGE thank you to those who spent time working in the Garden this summer!



Right: Colorful shrubs offer winter interest in the Garden.

Below: Jim Baxter has installed a new fence in the Cactus Garden.

Below right: New pyramidal junipers in the Rock Garden will help screen the compost pile.



Raised Beds at The Garden Door 2020

From Barb Henkelmann, Supervisor

Our Raised Bed area at The Garden Door was a big success this summer, and it's too bad that very few people got to marvel at the plants grown there. In early June our committee of Carole Connelly, Linda Kohlberg, Susan Morgan, Marian and Rod Schlise, Barbara Lee Shakal and Joyce Smith planted flowers in our wheelbarrow and barrel planters and vegetables in our raised beds. The vegetables in particular were very prolific, probably due to the sunny weather, constant watering and soil from the Station's compost pile. The Scarlet Runner Beans in full bloom were a beautiful sight, climbing the obelisk above the huge dinner-plate sized leaves of yellow crook necked squash. The squash plants were so large they crowded out the zinnias we had planted in the back row of the highest bed. These plants produced an abundance of warty yellow squash which we took home to eat, delivered to the food pantry and decorated our porches for the fall season.

Another vegetable that did well was the Tokyo Bekana, or bok choy, that we planted in the middle section of the raised bed. These plants produced light green bunches of leaves and would have been tasty if it hadn't been for slugs eating holes in them. This points out the need of keeping an eye out for garden pests and curbing their activity early in the growing season. Luckily they didn't particularly like the arugula leaves we grew in the bottom bed and we had a good crop.

The plants in the other half of the Raised Beds were also exceptional: more squash!, a huge Brandywine tomato plant (also bothered by slugs), a mesclun mix, radishes and some dianthus that reseeded from the previous year.

It's really amazing how much produce can be grown in a small area when given loving care and regular watering. Next year we hope others will be able to come to The Garden Door to enjoy not only the Raised Bed area but all of the other beautiful areas of the Garden.



Help DCMGA Promote Our Facebook Pages!

From Karen Kidd, Social Media Chair

Please direct any questions directly to Karen at her email address below.



Our organization's Facebook pages need a boost and could benefit the potential outreach with a little help from all of you. As you know, we rely on Facebook to not only provide valuable education information, but also to help promote events, talks, and important fundraisers like the Plant Sale. Even though the events and Plant Sale are delayed for now, it is critical that we maintain a strong presence on Facebook.

If there is not sufficient activity on a page, the Facebook monitors will limit the outreach and geographical marketing of the page. When we will really need to have a push of marketing like for the plant sale, if the page has limited followers we won't get the advertising and promotion we require.

Soooo, how can you help? I know many of you like a post. Some even go as far as adding a happy face or a heart or flower. That is great. I am asking you to just take two extra seconds and add a word or two. Could be as simple as "yay" or "beautiful" or "so right", or even make a comparison to your own gardens. Then SHARE IT to your own page. That is the kind of activity the Facebook people are looking for to keep our pages available to newer viewers and organizations.

Lastly, you can make some posts as a visitor to the Master Gardener or Garden Door Facebook pages. Share your photos. As your friend on Facebook I see them so I know you are active on your pages. But in doing so, if you were to add in what the name of the plant is, and if you got it from another DCMGA member or bought it at the plant sale that would be awesome and do some promoting too!

As of last June, I have assumed the lead for both Facebook pages. If you have stories and don't want to post yourself, or have some photos to share, please send them to me at karengardens@yahoo.com or text me at 773-787-7154.

I am planning to start a series of posts on the Garden Door page that will highlight one of the gardens each week. History, features and now the current challenges each garden is facing while being renovated back to its glory. (Yes, I will continue to reinforce the fact the garden is closed.) But we want to keep our followers engaged. If a particular weed is the challenge, it will be mentioned and then the Master Gardener page will pick up on it and promote responsible handling of the weed.

What Was Different About Gardening in 2020?

Since we couldn't get together this year to share our garden stories, we thought it would be nice to hear from DCMGA members about their garden experiences in this crazy year. Did you try some new veggies? Maybe you experimented with straw bale gardening, or finally put in those raised beds you've been thinking about. Here's what some of our members shared about their gardens.

This year we came back from Florida early due to COVID. For the first time I started some of my seeds in April. I was treated with lots of beautiful basil and ornamental kale. I was able to share basil pots with 3 friends and still had all I needed. I also retrieved a volunteer amaranth plant that was trimmed by deer at my volunteer site. Since there were so many I took one home and put it in my pot. Oh yes, it was an offspring from the 2019 plant sale.

- Lynn Polacek



I have a small raised bed garden, but I had good harvest of onions, green beans, and parsley - lots of parsley! I also tried butternut squash for the first time, and got 5 nice ones.

- Holly Green

I didn't try any new plants, I worked on what was in the garden and considered ways to promote sustainable habitat for bees and other native insects and animals.

- Chriss Daubner

The big surprise in my garden in 2020 was the fawn that spent the day in my shade garden this spring. Mom stopped by at dusk to retrieve her newborn.

- Ann Marie Ott





Although our class time in the greenhouse was limited, it inspired me to start all of this year's veggies from seed, raise the seedlings and carefully transplant into my raised beds. In the past I had always taken the easier route of buying robust plants from the nursery! Although I had varying degrees of success, I was proud of myself for trying something new!

- Dina Boettcher

First of all, my yard got more care in the Spring and Summer than it has in several years! It had a captive audience!!

Also, was able to have a Victory Garden at the Heritage Garden at Crossroads. We couldn't safely do our usual Heritage Garden through MG's, but I didn't want the garden to be idle. So I set it up with Laurel and Coggin at Crossroads to ensure that I would be the only one working there. A few friends helped, but we kept our distance and often worked on separate days. Gardening by myself allowed much time for thought and reflection. And, the produce went to the food pantries in Sturgeon Bay. The beans, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and basil particularly were plentiful. Hope to do the same in 2021 if the COVID situation remains the same and Crossroads is agreeable.

- Nancy Goldberg



My first year growing parsnips and although they're pretty ugly they taste wonderful. I even started a few in milk cartons outside in the snow which was also a first for me. I expanded my garden this year and tried Brussels sprouts. This is my entire crop but the deer enjoyed the stalks.

- Barbara Shakal



This summer my husband built me 2 raised garden beds and I had fun with those. Put in vegetables, flowers and herbs. Also, I tried the 3 sisters - beans, corn and squash (in the ground). My beans grew faster and taller than the corn. I'll try again next year.

- Vickie Daoust

It was an especially good Spring for trillium. This group is in one of our state parks. We are lucky to have so many parks in Door County.

- Linda Zolnosky

One of my favorite spots in my garden is the 3 sisters hill: corn, green beans, and squash. The way they grow to support each other provides a daily sign of sisterhood, cooperation, and hope. It's also a small way of honoring Native American women and their connection to the earth.

- Gretchen Schmelzer



I planted fewer annuals in containers this year, mostly because we didn't hold a plant sale where I usually buy and it was more difficult to get to the garden stores. I also had more time to spend in my garden, as so many other activities were curtailed. So why did the weeding get completely away from me by mid-July just like every other year? And the local deer herd still decimated my hostas at the beginning of August as usual. So, in many ways, it was a typical year in my garden.

- Mary Moster



This was a fabulous summer for the grapes, and we perfected a recipe for wonderful spiced grape jelly. - Jim Baxter

(Editors' Note: We think you really ought to share the recipe, Jim!)

Even without our Plant Sale, I shared over 300 perennials and as many bulbs with family and friends. Two of them are garden "newbies" so it was fun sharing info with them. Their excitement is contagious! I helped one rejuvenate overgrown gardens from the previous homeowner, helping her to identify long neglected plants. One surprise in my garden was the Amaranth 'Dreadlocks' that reseeded, growing over 6' tall! She was stunning!!!!

- Linda Monahan

Door County Seed Library

cultivating the power of seed...



The Door County Seed Library is wrapping up the year by taking a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of our 2020 Victory Gardens Initiative, which we implemented in response to the coronavirus pandemic and our continuing desire to help ensure abundance even in uncertain times. There were four key elements to our initiative: Victory Gardens seed bundles, free seedling giveaway, seed stewards, and a series of educational Facebook posts called Seed Sense: Growing with Karen Kidd.

The Victory Gardens Initiative wildly exceeded our expectations. Through this program, we donated and distributed:

- 7,512 seed packets
- 1,500 seedlings
- 180 seed potatoes
- 74 heads of garlic
- 892 pounds of produce
(through our produce swap table)

Additionally, our membership has grown from 160 to 429 members! We are already making plans for next year and we welcome new seed library members (click Join

Now on our website, <https://doorcountyseedlibrary.org/>). Or, if you are looking for MGV-approved volunteer activities, consider joining our planning team. Contact Penne Wilson at penne@pobox.com for more details.



A Zoom session for the 2020 class took place on December 14. It was very well attended by class members who were enthusiastic and engaged, and also included six leaders from the organization. It was a great opportunity to get to know the class members a little better and to talk about some of the things that are happening now and coming up in the DCMGA.

Notes from the Education Committee

Zoom meetings were held on September 25 and November 9. An expanded committee has been very busy working on ways to reach and educate our members as well as provide horticultural information to the public. Sue Kunz is serving as Interim Chair.

The newly recruited members are Lonnie Vitse, Class of 2018, MaryBeth Cleary-Phipps, 2019, and Barb Grishaber, 2020. They join Sarah Freyman, Lucy Kile, Kathy Green, Karen Newbern, Doug and Barbara Henderson and Gwenn Grayboes, Secretary.

The 2020 date for submitting required Education and optional Volunteer hours has been extended to December 31. Going forward, Wisconsin Master Gardeners will use the calendar year for Continuing Education and Volunteer hours.

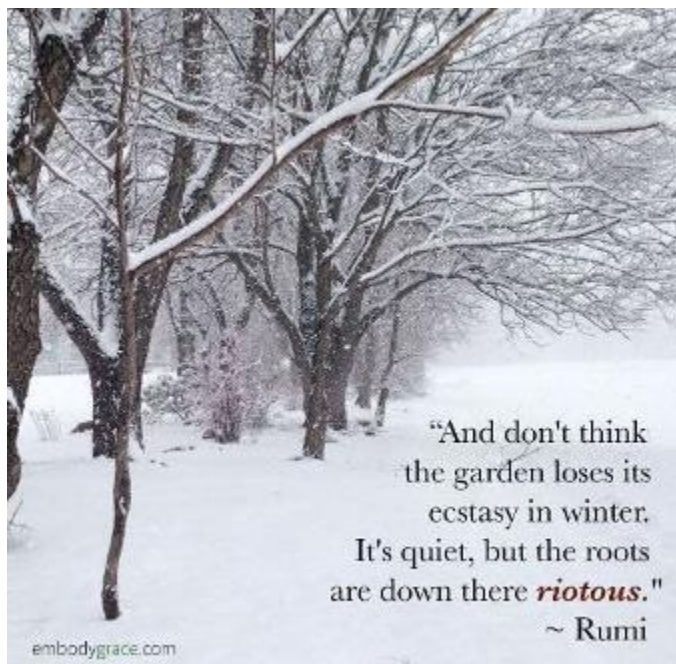
Tuesdays in The Garden Door events will be planned for July, August, and September once we know that they are permitted. These educational evenings will consist of two short presentations designed for our members and the public.

Opportunities to Learn!!!

Important Reminder: The BUZZ is THE primary source of communication and information. Please read all BUZZ communications! **Hopefully, you've noticed that there is a CONTINUING EDUCATION WEEKLY which you receive every Monday from the BUZZ with one to two links to videos for continuing education. We will continue this throughout the winter months.**

THERE WILL BE A WINTER PROGRAM SERIES IN 2021! The committee is working to find a few speakers that are willing to present **LIVE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS** with the technical assistance of the Kress Pavillon and the Door County Library. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, there will be links to educational videos on the DCMGA and the Door County Seed Library Facebook pages. They will also be listed on the Events Calendar in the Peninsula Pulse.



Member Spotlight: The MG Class of 2020

This issue, we are featuring some of the members of the 2020 training class. Next time we will highlight the remaining class members.

Hugh Zettel is a fourth generation Door County native, and graduated from Southern Door High School. He and his wife Cheryl raised their three children in Waukesha, and have two grandchildren. He retired in 2018 after a 36+ year career at GE Healthcare, and now lives on Glidden Drive. Hugh enjoys winter sports activity, including participating in multiple Birkebeiner races. Along with Master Gardeners, he is a member of the Town of Sevastopol Plan Commission and the Glidden Drive Association.

Hugh started gardening as a young boy, as his family had vegetable gardens and grew many varieties of fruit. He worked in the orchards next door, learning how to prune, graft, plant, spray and harvest apples and cherries. Later, he and his wife did an extensive landscaping project at their home in Waukesha, which further spurred their interest in flowers, especially pollinator plants. Their neighbor, an experienced gardener and member of the Waukesha Garden Club, was also instrumental in cultivating their interest in gardening.

Hugh decided to take the MG training course to learn more about managing perennials, and to experiment in landscape design. Their property on Glidden Drive has micro climates that vary from bright sun and sand dunes to heavily shaded pine and cedar woods, so he says

“We need to know what we’re doing, or at least know who to call.” He is interested in native flowers, shrubs and trees, as well as improving the pollinator habitat for all the butterflies that travel along the lake shore.

As a hands-on learner, Hugh is looking forward to spending more time at The Garden Door once we are able to do so, along with learning as part of Master Gardener Volunteer activities.



2020 MGV Class members

Front row, left to right: Jan Golden, June Shipper (left class).

Next row: Gloria Heck, Hugh Zettel.

Next row: Marge Bultman, Cheryl Zettel.

Next row: Lisa O'Dell, Trudy Crebo, Kaitlyn Haley.

Back row: Dina Boettcher, Barb Grishaber, Lee Voeks.

Not pictured: Pam Goodwill.

Member Spotlight cont'd.

Jan Golden is relatively new to Door County, having moved into her Egg Harbor home in 2015. She lived in the Chicago suburbs for 58 years, retiring after a 37 year career in broadcasting. She also owned a tree farm in northwestern Illinois, where she got her love for the outdoors, the forest, and gardening. Jan says "I found gardening therapeutic after long days of dealing with people, instant on-air decisions, and immediately gratifying in the beauty of outdoors."

When Jan's home was built, it was an empty canvas, and she has enjoyed the "trial and error" of creating a cottage garden setting of native perennials and grasses. She says that her goal is to have people notice the landscape much more than the house.

Jan and a dear friend had talked about taking the MG class for years, but were not able to until 2020. She expressed how fortuitous it was to start in a year where being outside was also salvation. Through the MG program, she would like to increase her knowledge of all aspects of outside gardening, and to be a part of a community of gardeners working together to beautify our community.



Gloria Heck retired 6 years ago to Door County. Her career included 18 years working for IBM, and 17 years creating and managing a small boutique Management Consulting Firm. She and her soulmate Jeffrey have lived in Fish Creek for over 12 years, and they have 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. Gloria loves to be outdoors and enjoy the beauty of Door County.

Gloria said that gardening has always been a passion of hers, and she chose to become a MGV to learn more. She even suggested to two of her friends to take the course with her, and said "What a great way to spend the winter in Door learning about gardening with 2 of my dear friends."

When asked what she would especially like to do or learn as a MGV, Gloria said "I want to absorb as much as I can and use my newfound talents to help make our community even more beautiful. Being a Master Gardener volunteer will allow me another avenue to volunteer and give back to our community."



Jan and Gloria, hard at work this fall in The Garden Door.

Member Spotlight cont'd.

Dina Boettcher works as a Realtor with ERA Starr Realty, and loves spending time with her husband Andy and two grown daughters. They have lived in Door County for 20 years, now living in a "little house in the big woods" across from the Ida Bay Preserve in Sturgeon Bay. When not working, Dina likes to "putter outside... preferably with a glass of wine in hand."

Dina's interest in gardening goes back to her childhood on a farm, where they grew the lion's share of their food. Fresh produce, canning and freezing were just part of life. Today, she grows more veggies than flowers, and is also interested in garden design.

Dina describes herself as "a life-long learner who believes in giving back to her community." As a MG volunteer, she would like to make a positive contribution to our community through gardening and/or nature, and also improve her knowledge of native plants. Her passion would be teaching others how to enjoy and care for our environment.



Ann Marie Ott is a transplant from the Master Gardener program in Green County, where she took her initial training in 2005. Her primary activity over the past several years was establishing and helping maintain a prairie garden at the Swiss Historical Village museum operated by the New Glarus Historical Society, where she also worked as a tour guide and volunteer archivist.

Ann Marie retired in 2018 after working for over 40 years in a variety of long term care settings and for the WI Department of Health Services. She and her husband have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. They moved to Door County in October, and a condo on the historic Maxwellton Braes golf course is now their home.

Ann Marie says she acquired her lifelong gardening passion from her parents, "though I didn't appreciate the many assigned tasks in my youth." Today her favorite gardening pursuits are growing vegetables for preserving and flowers for cutting, especially heirloom varieties. Since moving to Door County, she's been frequently asked, "How will you ever adapt from your large country garden to the condo association's ten pot limit?" She just replies, "I hear there's a great MGV group in Door County. Don't worry, they'll find something for me to do!"



Ornamental snake gourds are fun to grow - and to wear!

Take "Note" of These Announcements

Help is needed in a few areas!

**Community Projects Supervisor
Needed to keep track of our outreach
projects. Contact Mary Moster,
mary@lcw1.com.**

**Technical Expertise Needed to work
with archiving DCMGA materials.**

**For either position, please contact
Mary Moster, mary@lcw1.com.**

**The Wisconsin Garden
and Landscape Expo,
February 20-21, will be
virtual this year. Visit
wigardenexpo.com to
register!**

**Be sure to read the
Volunteer Vibe that
comes to your email
each month. There
is information you
need to know!**

2021 DCMGA Committee Chairs/Coordinators

Community Projects - OPEN

Education - Sue Kunz (interim)

Garden Door:

Operations - Dale Vogel

Plants - Sue Kunz

Financial - Nancy Anschutz

Membership - Linda Zolnosky

Newsletter Editors - Lee Ann Casper
and Karen Newbern

Plant Sale - Nancy Goldberg

Speakers and Tours - Sunny MacLachlan

Social - Donna Asher, Carrie Potier

Social Media - Karen Kidd

Strategic Planning - Mary Moster

Sunshine - Holly Green

Training - Sue Kunz and Laurie Connell

Website and Buzz - Mike VanEss

WIMGA Representative - Mary Moster