

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

Fall 2021 - Volume 27 - Number 3

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



“Two sounds of autumn are unmistakable...the hurrying rustle of crisp leaves blown along the street...by a gusty wind, and the gabble of a flock of migrating geese.”

-- Hal Borlund

President's Message

With all the changes and new requirements that have affected DCMGA over the past 18 months, it seemed like a good idea to take stock and reflect on what it all means for our organization. In August, the board and committee chairs gathered for a half-day Leadership Summit. Our objective was to take a hard look at where DCMGA is now and what we need to do to meet the challenges of the future.

We used a traditional SWOT analysis to brainstorm the strengths (S), weaknesses (W), opportunities (O) and threats (T) we face today. We then used those findings as part of the board's annual review of DCMGA's goals. The result was four pared down, highly focused goals. They are:

- DCMGA will prioritize horticultural education in all its programs and activities.
- DCMGA will engage in community outreach activities in alignment with its educational and environmental stewardship mission.
- DCMGA will collaborate with other local organizations with similar goals.
- DCMGA will seek to retain and grow its membership and actively focus on member engagement.

While our goals didn't change substantially from prior years, there are some important differences that align our activities more closely with our mission.

DCMGA

Board of Directors & Officers

President - Mary Moster
Vice President - Shawn Mathys
Treasurer - Laura Maloney
Secretary - Lee Ann Casper (interim)
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.

The first three goals call for a renewed focus on an educational component in everything we do. We will also strive for more collaborative outreach to other local organizations that share our values and objectives. This focus will help us evaluate whether outreach projects truly meet our mission of horticultural education and environmental stewardship.

The fourth goal is an outgrowth of specific challenges of the past 18 months. Because of pandemic restrictions and decisions by UW-Extension, such as Master Gardener training no longer being offered in-person on a local level, we lost some of the opportunities to work together that created the camaraderie and fun of being a Master Gardener Volunteer. We need to get that back.

We've already started to integrate the goals into our activities. I'm delighted that Barbara and Doug Henderson have agreed to become co-chairs of the Education Committee. They and the other committee members are energized with finding more opportunities to learn and teach, as well as collaborating more with other local organizations, such as Crossroads and Wild Ones.

Sue Kunz is stepping down as Education Chair, a position she agreed to take on an interim basis over a year ago. I want to give her an enormous thank you for helping to guide our members to the many resources available for horticultural education. Sue won't get any time to rest, however, because she's agreed to become chair of the newly created Member Engagement Committee. The first focus of this committee will be to reach out to Door County residents taking this fall's "Foundations in Horticulture" course to introduce them to DCMGA and help them bond with both their fellow students and our organization.

The SWOT analysis also reconfirmed the many great strengths of DCMGA. So, while changes will undoubtedly continue to challenge us in the months ahead, we have a great foundation to build upon for the future.

Thank you for all you do for our organization.

Mary

Thanks for Your Garden Pictures!

Earlier this fall, we asked members to send in photos of their gardens so that we could share them here. The response was great, and we have more pictures than we can share in a single issue of the newsletter! We are including some of them now, scattered throughout these pages, and will feature more in our next issue. If you haven't already submitted your pictures, please feel free to email them to mgdceditor@gmail.com. Please include a short description or caption for your photo.

Notes from the Board of Directors

Here is information from the Board of Directors meeting on September 20. See website 'Members Only' for more.

New state-wide on-line training, "Foundations of Horticulture," is starting with six people registered from Door County. Five of these were on our waiting list for training. Mary touched base with a couple dozen more on our list who had not signed up. Many liked the on-line flexibility, but the time given to enroll was short. Sue Kunz is now Chair of the Member Engagement Committee, with an initial focus on integrating the new trainees into the DCMGA community.

Annual donations from DCMGA to PARS (\$2500) and Crossroads (\$1000) were approved, with the amount remaining the same as last year. It was learned that PARS will indeed be able to keep our donation for their own operations.

A WIMGA grant for a project at the Ridges has been submitted by Karen Smith. She and Ann Marie Ott propose to improve a native plant area and add identification.



Plant Sale 2022 – Planning of our major fundraiser continues and evolves. Due to the jumping worm issue, potted perennials from our gardens will not be included. Chair Nancy Goldberg would like to see some new and different annuals grown in the Greenhouse to pique the interest of buyers.

Fund-raisers - Another members-only perennial sale is planned. It is a perk for members as well as a smaller fund-raiser. A 2022 fall Garden Walk for the public, showcasing some of our members' gardens, is under discussion. At this financial point, it was felt that we need to be writing grants to fund some of the things we want to do.

Our Annual Meeting and Social Hour will be October 12 at Crossroads. Dues (\$20) should be paid at that time, or can be sent promptly to Laura Maloney, Treasurer.

DCMGA Annual Meeting - There's Still Time to Plan to Attend

Even if you didn't RSVP for the Social Hour following the Annual Meeting on October 12, please remember that you can still attend the business meeting that begins at 5:00 PM at Crossroads. It's a great time to see your MGV friends, vote on the proposed slate of directors and bylaws changes, pay your annual dues, and learn about what's been happening with our association over the past year.

We look forward to having as many of us as possible attend and feel safe while participating in the entire event. It has been too long since we have had an opportunity to see each other!

1. We are requiring proof of vaccination or negative COVID test within 3 days.
2. Masks are optional. During the pandemic, Crossroads installed a new ventilation system with a HEPA filter and UV light within the air ducts.

You can bring a check to pay your annual dues of \$20.00. Treasurer, Laura Maloney will be at the door to accept your checks.

If you cannot make the meeting, please send your \$20 check for annual dues made out to DCMGA to:

Laura Maloney
10490 S. Appleport Ln.
Sister Bay, WI 54234

I look forward to seeing you there!
Mary

*Viceroy butterfly - a Monarch imposter - on
Ruffled Apricot daylily. Linda Monahan*



Notes from the Education Committee

Here is information from the September 14 meeting. As always, detailed minutes are available under the Members Only section on the website.

Change in leadership - Doug and Barbara Henderson will be the new chairs through 2022. Sue Kunz will be the Door County liaison for the new on-line training program.

Field Trips – We should start to plan these for both educational and social reasons. Many past trips and future possibilities were discussed including local farms, local and Green Bay gardens, nurseries/landscapers and a tour of PARS.

WDOR programs – We will no longer participate regularly but hope to use WDOR for periodic announcements.

Next Year's Programs - Work is beginning on 2022 Educational Offerings, which could include a winter series done in-person, via Zoom or a combination of the two. A Fall 2022 seminar is also under consideration.

Monthly Educational Bulletin - The Committee feels that this should be continued (thank you, Ann Marie Ott). This provides many quality opportunities for education credits. There is also a summary of all educational offerings on the DCMGA website.

Partnering with Community Groups – This can be of advantage to us by increasing our presence, maximizing audience size for presentations, and providing more volunteer opportunities. We will reach out to organizations such as Wild Ones, Door County Land Trust, Crossroads, the Ridges Sanctuary and Climate Change Coalition of Door County.

Regional Educator – Door County has not had an Extension educator since 2019. The State is presently looking to hire an educator who will serve Door, Kewaunee and Brown Counties.



Pam Goodwill sent this picture of Clematis paniculata, which she purchased through this year's Members Only Plant Sale. She described it as "White fragrant flower, (very) prolific grower. I am so pleased with this investment that is enjoyed right off of my patio!"

Notes from The Garden Door Committee

From the Garden Door Committee, September 13 minutes:

The meeting focused on the discovery of invasive Jumping Worms in The Garden Door. Testing has revealed worms in perhaps three areas of our Garden. The harmful worms continue to be found in Door County and the state, even in some Botanical Gardens. We must clean our shoes and tools after our work. Thank you to Doug and Barbara Henderson for sharing what they have learned and for their help in testing. As more information/research comes out, we will be apprised.

Other information:

Expansion of the parking area will be done this fall, which will double the space.

Installation of pavers leftover from the original project will begin September 27. They will be added in the Memorial Garden area and include a special design.

Gardens in need of a supervisor: Rose, West Perennial, Cactus and Pergola. Contact Sue Kunz if interested in helping.

DC Invasive Species Team came twice this year to treat the invasive Akebia Vine on the tunnel.

Three special conifers were recently planted by Meissners along the driveway as a project of the shade garden.

Extensive renovation continues. Details will be posted on the website.

Fall Clean Up Day at The Garden Door

Monday, October 18 (rain date October 19)

10:00 AM - noon

Come on out and help put The Garden Door to bed for the winter. Lunch will be provided!

Plein Air Festival - July 27, 2021

It was a rather hot, intensely sunny day that called for hats, parasols and shade. But in The Garden Door ten artists were happily creating works of art as they participated in the Door County Plein Air Festival. They positioned themselves throughout, including the gazebo and the Garden Next Door. About 200 visitors stopped by to stroll through while observing and talking to the artists. A cadre of our Volunteers was there to answer garden questions, offer information and water, and enjoy the day. We have contacted the Peninsula School of Art to offer hosting again next year.



Left: Capturing the beauty of the pond.

Above: The shed, barn and tunnel were favored subjects of several artists.

Below left: Gathering a crowd near the Herb Garden.

Below right: Painting at the confluence of the Peony and Perennials Gardens.



Damaging Invader Wriggles Its Way Into Door County

This article first appeared in the Sept. 17-24 issue of the Peninsula Pulse and can be found at <https://doorcountypulse.com/damaging-invader-wriggles-its-way-into-door-county/>.

Barb and Doug Henderson spent 25 years creating elegant woodland and bayshore gardens, and then spent about 25 days watching an alien worm destroying parts of their personal sanctuary.

"It's horrifying," Barb said, because the discovery this year of invasive jumping worms in many portions of their Bay Shore Drive property – just a year after testing for them and finding none – means the worms have surely arrived elsewhere in Door County as well and are damaging gardens, lawns, forests and the ecosystem as a whole.

Door County residents are just now beginning to discover the invasive worms, which look a little like a night crawler, but are darker and firmer and have a white band (clitellum) instead of a pinkish band. Jumping worms die each winter, but the species survives by eaving poppy-seed-sized cocoons under leaf litter, in mulch and in the soil below the sod roots they destroy, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Hendersons figure that if they're finding the worms on their property – and they were careful about any dirt or plants they brought in – they're probably all over the county.

"We want people to be alerted and know that they're here in Door County," Doug said.



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Doug Henderson pulls back dying sod and finds nonnative jumping worms that are destroying the roots. The caretaker of elegant gardens, along with his wife Barbara, tested for the invasive species in 2020 and found none, but found them in late summer this year in several locations. Photo by Craig Sterrett.



A UW-Madison photo shows a night crawler on the left and one of three jumping-worm species found in Wisconsin on the right. This one is smaller than the crawler, but the distinguishing characteristics are the white band and the way it thrashes like a snake when touched. Submitted.

Invader Arriving in Various Ways

The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) said that so far, jumping worms have been reported in four area municipalities: the towns of Baileys Harbor, Egg Harbor, Sevastopol and Sturgeon Bay.

"Jumping worms are a relatively new invasive species, first identified in Wisconsin in 2013," said DCIST leader Samantha Koyen. She urges residents to look for the invasive worm and to make efforts to avoid spreading it in soil or its cocoons on shoes, tires, walking sticks and tools.

Prevention Is the Best Solution

"Jumping worms pose a huge threat to Door County's ecology because of their detrimental long-term impacts to soil and native vegetation," said Jesse Koyen, Door County Land Trust's land stewardship director. "Just about any landscape you can imagine is susceptible to jumping worms: backyard gardens, open fields, forests and other natural areas. Prevention is our best solution."

And essential to prevention are less movement and more cleaning. That means not moving any soil, water or plant matter where known invasives live, and cleaning all equipment when moving between sites, including shoe treads, debris from pets, shovels and walking sticks. Bare-root and native plants should be purchased from reputable sources.

DCIST's Koyen said routine fall activities can spread a variety of invasive species. These routine-but-risky tasks include dividing and sharing perennial plants and hauling yard waste to compost sites that are then fed to plants and gardens in the spring.

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Signs the Pest Is Present

Signs of the worms include dying patches of turf and dry, coffee-ground-like granules of soil under leaf litter and mulch. The worms' castings, unlike those of the European worms that have been here for centuries, are dry. Jumping worms also change the makeup of the top layer of topsoil to a dry, granular material, and hidden among those grains in the topsoil are the jumping worms' cocoons.

Bernie Williams, a Wisconsin DNR invasive-species and earthworm specialist, said Door County has more susceptibility to the spread of the worm than other areas because many people with vacation homes could transfer plants in soil from southern Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Illinois or other areas. Construction projects also contribute to moving infested soil into the county.

Wisconsin passed regulations to prevent the spread of the worms in 2009, four years before their discovery in the state. Nurseries and soil providers must pass inspections, and it's illegal to sell jumping worms as bait.

As with many invasive species, these worms have no natural predators here. Scientists have anecdotal evidence that robins are not eating jumping worms and may not find them palatable. However, the DNR has received reports of turkeys and chickens eating them.

Williams said Wisconsin residents typically start reporting jumping worms in late August and September, when more of them are mature and easy to see. Rainier summers produce more of the worms, and frost kills them, but not their cocoons. The worms are asexual and thus are able to prolifically produce cocoons without a mate.

"The cocoons can be killed only if heated above 104 degrees," Koyen said. "Jumping worms live in colonies and spread quickly. It has been documented that jumping worms can infest up to 17 acres in one season, unlike the European earthworms, which move approximately 30 feet a year."



The DNR has concerns that jumping worms may wreak havoc on the forest. They loosen and degrade the soil, and they also speed up the nitrogen cycle, which prevents plant matter from decaying over time and providing the nutrients the trees need, Williams said.

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The Hendersons' Solutions

In addition to spreading the word about the worms, the Hendersons are taking preventive actions of their own. They're replacing the bluegrass trails that wound through their gardens with rock, as well as tearing out sedum groundcover along their driveway and replacing it with stones. They're also making efforts to avoid standing on soil, instead hopping from stepping stone to stepping stone. And, when they leave their lawn, woodland or gardens and step onto their driveway, they spray the soles of their shoes with bleach-based kitchen cleaner.

Report It

If you suspect you have jumping worms on your property, email the Door County Invasive Species Team at DCIST1@gmail.com and/or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at invasive.species@wisconsin.gov.

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Interested in learning more? PBS Wisconsin has an excellent presentation on jumping worms by Brad Herrick, an Ecologist at the UW-Madison Arboretum. This presentation is approved for one hour of continuing education, and can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CPQH8q1Pfc>.

Concerned that jumping worms may be present in your landscape? Here's a simple way to detect them.

- 1/3 cup dried mustard powder (available from Amazon in 1# and 2# containers for about \$7.00 a pound)
- 1 gallon of water

Mix mustard powder into the water. Put mixture into a watering can that does not have a watering head on it.

Choose an area in the garden that you suspect has jumping worms (the soil will be granular – looks like coffee grounds - in areas where the garden is infested with worms).

Pour a generous amount of the mustard mixture on the soil so that the soil is moistened to about 1 to 1.5 inches deep.

The mustard mixture irritates the worms' "skin" and they will surface if they are present. If you have the worms, place them in a plastic bag and allow them to sit in the sun to kill them or put them into a container that has vinegar or Isopropyl Alcohol in it.

Door County Seed Library 
cultivating the power of seed...

The Door County Seed Library is happy to be partnering with Crossroads at Big Creek and Wild Ones of the Door Peninsula to offer a seed collection workshop at Crossroads on November 6 (time TBD). Don Gustafson, Wild Ones of the Door Peninsula Board member, will lead an activity to collect seeds from a variety of flowers and grasses found in the Crossroads' prairie restoration area. At this event, the seed library will also distribute free native seed packets and offer handouts on how to winter sow the seeds. More information about this event will be shared on the [Seed Library's Facebook page](#) and in their November newsletter.



Don Gustafson leading a Seed Hike at the Sturgeon Bay Library in 2019.



Dora Leonardson's lovely backyard pond. She says, "The pond was put in about 20 years ago by Briggsville. Now it's quite overgrown but we will be thinning the plants this fall to get it back under control. We have koi - at least 16 that I can count including 4 yearlings plus some from this year, though I haven't seen them enough to count. We have a small waterfall and a stone bridge connecting our deck to garden paths in the backyard. We winter the koi in the pond. We turn off the pump for the waterfall and replace it with an air pump and floating heater to keep a hole open all winter for gas exchange."

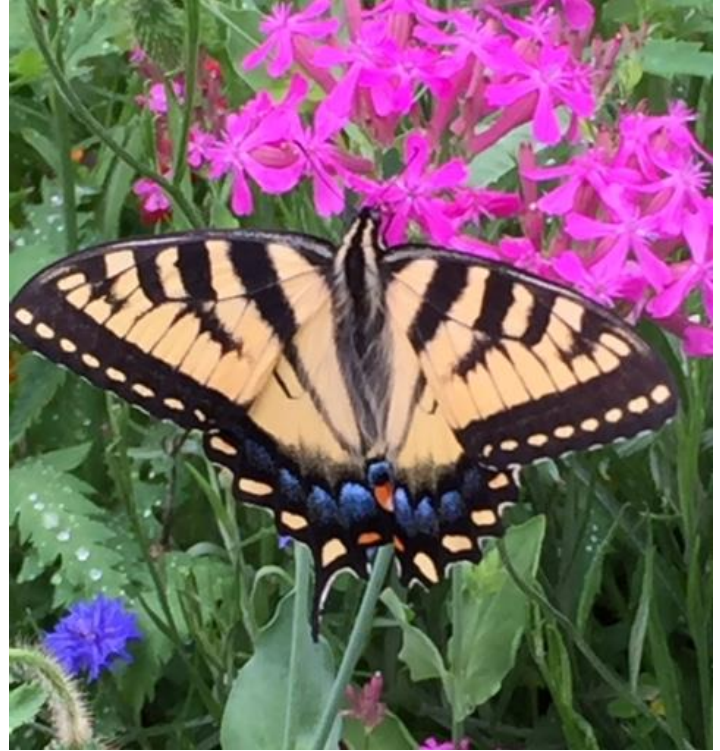


Monarchs, Monarchs, Monarchs

Quite a few of our members' photos featured Monarchs and other butterflies visiting their gardens. Here are several of them.



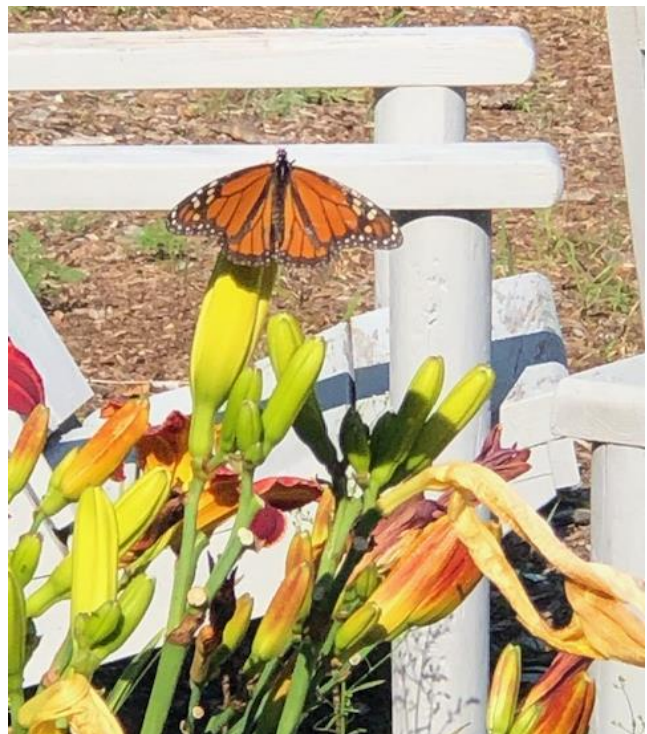
A feast for a monarch! (Sue Kunz)



*Above: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (Kris Lewis)
Below: Daylilies and monarch. (Linda Kohlberg)*



Mexican Sunflower (Tithonia) is a butterfly magnet. (Linda Monahan)



Crossroads Restoration - One Step at a Time

Submitted by Coggin Heeringa

When the Sturgeon Bay Education Foundation acquired the property on which to create the nature preserve we now call Crossroads at Big Creek, it was degraded land in dire need of help. The forests were mostly gone or replaced by plantations, the creek was straightened, the wetlands were drained, and the orchards were dying.

Back then, we sincerely believed that if we could just protect the land from further damage, nature would take its course and land would recover and become a viable set of diverse and productive habitats. We were wrong. So, over the years, we've done a great deal of restoration work. Yet the land still suffered from fragmentation, invasive species and diminished native biodiversity.

More than a year ago, the Board of Directors made a commitment to invest resources in restoring Crossroads to healthy, diverse, largely self-sustaining ecosystems. To help us do so, we engaged Nancy Aten and Dan Collins of Landscapes of Place LLC to develop and oversee a multi-year Ecological Restoration Project. (The plan is available on the Crossroads website.)



Our hope was that, not unlike The Garden Door, Crossroads could become a demonstration site—a place for visitors to see how degraded habitats are restored, where they could volunteer and “learn by doing,” and they could then replicate our efforts elsewhere. To this end, we created a volunteer group which we aptly call Habitat Healers, and in our first year, we have done amazing things.

Restoration Ecologist Dan Collins demonstrates correct tree planting techniques.

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The first step was to remove exotic buck-thorn, honeysuckle, reed canary grass, phragmites, Canada thistle and other invasive plants on over eight acres, primarily in wetland zones along Big Creek.

So far this year, Crossroads staff, contract restoration specialists and Habitat Healers have planted and cared for 1700 bare-root native trees and shrubs, 274 larger potted or balled-and-burlapped native trees and shrubs, and 1600 native plugs. Currently, tree planting (to reach the goal of 4000 trees and shrubs) is underway.



Habitat Healers clip seed heads from invasive Reed Canary Grass.

In the near future, Crossroads is sponsoring an ecological restoration talk (approved for MG continuing education hours):

Thursday, October 14 at 7:00 PM

Restoration at Crossroads: Re-Meandering and More, featuring Nancy Aten and Dan Collins of Landscapes of Place, who developed Crossroads' Ecological Restoration Plan. This event will focus on the work currently being done here at Crossroads and plans for the future.

Restoration Specialist Jason Miller showed 4th Grade Sunrise Explorers how to plant an evergreen tree.



Members' Garden Spotlight: Maribeth Hetherington



I am fortunate to have a large 2 acre property that is partially wooded and partially sunny. This gives me the opportunity to have a wide variety of perennials that do well in all types of sun versus shade. My front garden presents a large perennial garden boasting plants that are mostly sun loving. There is a signature Sturgeon as a centerpiece for the front garden, as well as hydrangeas, winter hardy hibiscus, garden phlox, asiatic lilies, bee balm, liatris, creeping phlox and many more.



As the gardens continue to wrap around the west side of the house, the woods present a mixture of sun and shade. This offers me the chance to shift to a huge hosta garden with a wide variety of hostas, and across the way a predominately fern garden with three large lilac bushes. The fern garden includes a few spots of sun that helped me to add black eyed susans and "Minnie Pearl" that adds some colorful blooms.



As you continue to follow around from the west to the back yard, I have planted ground covers, spireas, daisies, cranesbill, iris, black eyed susans, mums, peonies, and other colorful perennials at the edge of the woods around the entire perimeter of the yard. Closer to the house, there is a circular pavers patio that is also landscaped with boxwoods, spireas, potentillas, daylilies, Dark Horse weigela, veronica, and a signature Pee Gee hydrangea tree with black eyed susans under it that is breathtakingly beautiful at this time of the year.

(Editors' note: We plan to continue this series, featuring other member's gardens, in future newsletters.)

Take "Note" of These Announcements

Volunteer and Education Hours

In 2021, you may report less than 24 hours of volunteer time at 2021 COVID approved projects (this may be zero hours). Only volunteer at approved projects if you feel you can do so safely.

We continue to require the minimum of 10 hours of continuing education. Continuing ed hours, plus completing all the volunteer mandates, will be required to certify next year.

You have until December 31, 2021, to complete and report your hours.

Be sure to read the September 23 Volunteer Vibe -- important information!

Have a great idea for a newsletter article? Email mgdceditor@gmail.com - submissions from DCMGA members are always welcome!

Because of the presence of jumping worms in The Garden Door, anyone working in the gardens **must** thoroughly clean their shoes and tools before leaving. This will help to prevent spreading the worms to any other areas you might enter, including your own gardens.
PREVENTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION!