



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

Fall 2022 - Volume 28 - Number 3

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



*"For man, autumn is
a time of harvest, of
gathering together.
For nature, it is a time
of sowing, of scattering
abroad."
- Edwin Way Teale*

DCMGA

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Secretary - Lee Ann Casper

Board Members

Nancy Goldberg

Sue Kunz

Janet Uteg

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

What an amazing summer we've had at Door County Master Gardeners!

It's wonderful to see so many Master Gardeners contributing throughout our community in so many different ways. Here's a shout out to just some of our MGVs who are fulfilling our mission to make a positive impact on horticulture in our community:

- ◆ Ann Marie Ott and Karen Smith are creating a pollinator garden at the Cook-Albert Fuller Nature Center at The Ridges Sanctuary and also working to expand the Toft Community Garden in Baileys Harbor.
- ◆ Michelle Kemp is chair of the multi-faceted Ellison Bay Flower Project, leading a team of MGVs who've made blossoms bloom all over Northern Door, including plantings in Gus Klenke's iconic truck for the fourteenth year.
- ◆ Dora Leonardson shared her knowledge through a September 8th article in the Peninsula Pulse on tips for first-time seed savers.
- ◆ Sue Kunz and Barbara Henderson worked with PARS Superintendent Becky Wiepz to provide a tour of The Garden Door for UW-Madison's Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin on August 20.
- ◆ Gwenn Graboyes, Lu Maloney, Lynn Polacek and Lonnie Vitse answered the call to help restore Door Shakespeare's neglected gardens.

Cont'd. on page 2

President's Message cont'd.

- ◆ Maribeth Hetherington and Gloria Heck are rejuvenating the gardens at Door Medical Center's Pete and Jelaine Horton Skilled Nursing Facility and at the First Baptist Church in Sturgeon Bay.
- ◆ Seeds provided by the Door County Seed Library and seedlings grown by the Plant Fair team headed by Nancy Goldberg stocked 100 garden kits, which were distributed free of charge by Healthy Door County to those wanting to grow their own vegetables.
- ◆ Pam Goodwill and Michelle Kemp shared responsibilities, along with help from Joyce Smith, to provide fresh herbs and flowers to the Door of Life Church food pantry in Ellison Bay.
- ◆ Helen Bacon hosted a tour of the raised beds at the Door County ADRC, where MGV Vickie Daoust volunteered to water and weed weekly.
- ◆ A team of MGVs headed by Sue Kunz readied The Garden Door to welcome painters and visitors for the second year for Peninsula School of Art's Plein Air Festival.
- ◆ The Education Committee, headed Barbara and Doug Henderson, offered a full range of fun and informative programs, such as Jamie Patton's engaging, hands-on lecture on soils and MILPA gardening.



It makes me so proud to see the many ways DCMGA volunteers are helping to make the whole Door County community a better place to work and live. What a great group you are!

Thank you for all you do.

Mary

Door County MGVs Ann Marie Ott and Karen Smith, with the assistance of Ridges staff, have designed and planted a beautiful new pollinator garden at the Cook - Albert Fuller Nature Center at The Ridges Sanctuary. They received a grant from the Wisconsin Master Gardening Association to purchase plants to rehabilitate an overgrown garden in the entry area. This new garden illustrates how we all can design a pollinator garden in our own home landscape. Take your camera and notepad and visit this lovely new garden.

Notes from the Board of Directors

At its September 19 meeting, the DCMGA Board discussed the budget that has been compiled for 2023. It will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

The Strategic Planning Committee announced that two new members will come onto the Board next year. They are Kris Lewis (class of 2018) and Lee Voek (class of 2020). There are also two new Strategic Planning members, Cheryl Vettle and Dina Boettcher, both class of 2020.

Strategic Planning is working on leadership for the Plant Fair so that we can have another great event in 2023. There are many parts to the whole task. Please be open to taking a part.



THE 2022 DCMGA ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 17, 5:00 PM
Crossroads at Big Creek

Business Meeting at 5:00 PM

SOCIAL TIME after the Meeting
with Food and Refreshments

All current DCMGA Members and new Alumni Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Mark your calendar and watch your email for details and your RSVP info. We hope to see you there!

Notes from The Garden Door Committee

It was a great year in The Garden Door! At the September 12 meeting, achievements were noted:

~ From the new Vegetable Demonstration Garden, 30 pounds+ of produce were donated to the ADRC (the rabbit got some, too). The garden provided many great teaching moments. More than 250 brochures were taken from the information mailbox. There were lots of positive comments!

~ Renovations: Complete redo of the West Perennial Garden, major renovation of the Highway Entrance Garden, on-going renovation in the Shade, East Entrance, Sundial, Herb, and Memorial Gardens.

~ Hosting of the Plein Air Artist Festival again; approximately 180 visitors attended. Many compliments from the artists and visitors. We hope to host again next year.

~ A significant increase in our Facebook presence.

~ Many positive statements, including some in Trip Advisor: "We stop every year; we haven't even checked in at our hotel yet." "We have been coming here since our son was a baby; he is now 18." "We come every year to see the changes and there is always something new for us to see." (This was a comment by an MG from Brown County.) "A hidden gem."

~ Visit of new Chancellor from UW Madison who took a tour of northeast Wisconsin in August. Sue Kunz and Barbara Henderson were invited to attend a discussion with the Chancellor, PARS Superintendent Rebecca Weipz, and owners from Wood and Seaquist orchards. Sue and Barbara then took the group on a tour of The Garden Door.



Fall Clean Up Day at The Garden Door

Tuesday, 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, 2022

A shout out to those that helped Monday Morning at the Weed and Feed to get The Garden Door in tip top shape for the Plein Air Festival and to those that volunteered for the event on Wednesday. There were 6 Plein Air artists that selected TGD as their site. Two of the artists were here last year, it was great to see them again, and fun to meet the other 4 artists. Several of the artists stated that this was a favorite site to paint at! It is fascinating process to watch from a blank canvas to a completed painting in two hours. A couple of the artists arrived early and created two spectacular pieces of work.

One hundred seventy-eight visitors attended the event. The books left over from the Plant Fair were offered at no charge, we received \$54.00 in the donation jar. At this time we do not know how much money was placed in the donation boxes.

We had many compliments on the beauty of the gardens and repeatedly heard "we've been coming to Door County for years and never knew this existed"! "This is a hidden gem"! One of the visitors is a MGV from Outagamie County and would like to arrange a tour to TGD. It was a fun day chatting with visitors about the gardens, talking to them about specific plants and of course watch the artists at work.

Thanks again to TGD Team!



*Above left: Olena Babek, from Connecticut, completed a lovely oil painting of the daylilies.
Above right: Zufar Bikov, also from Connecticut, chose to capture the pond in his oil painting. He painted from the same location at the 2021 Festival.*



Left and below: Dan Mondloch working on his watercolor with visitors looking on, and showing off his finished piece. Dan is from Minnesota and painted in The Garden Door in the 2021 Festival.



Left: MGVs Barbara Henderson and Hugh Zettel. Hugh was certainly “vested” in making the event a success!

Doug Henderson, Lee Voeks, and John Kierstyn assisted Hugh on the parking team. Volunteers in the garden areas were Barbara Henderson, Sue Kunz, Kathy Tryner, Carol Connelly, Barb Grishaber, Vickie Daoust and Susan Morgan.



Notes from the Education Committee

Here is information from the September 13 meeting. As always, detailed minutes are available under the Members Only section on the website.

Announcements: The new Program Director at Crossroads is Corey Baston. Barbara and Doug Henderson will continue to serve as Education Chairs. However, they will be away from Door County from the first part of January until the first part of April. Educational programs and coordinators will be in place during that time.

There are some outstanding, exciting educational program ideas that are being discussed for 2023. Some are more certain than others. All are still pending; watch for further information.

February - Mark Dwyer to speak again, probably about pollinators.

March - Kelly Norris, author of *New Naturalism* – This could be a spring symposium.

April - Charlotte Lukes, naturalist; perennial Door County favorite.

May - Bevin Cohen on planning and planting for Seed Saving – He was here before and had great reviews.

Another possibility is John Forti, author of *The Heirloom Gardener*.

There are also many no-cost UW Badger Talks from which we could select.

Coming up on October 12 is "The Earth Beneath Our Feet: Climate Change and the Soil Loss Crisis," 7:00 PM at the Kress Pavilion.

Did you realize? In 2022, there were more than 30 educational opportunities offered in Door County with which DCMGA was associated. We scheduled speakers, we collaborated with other like-minded organizations, and we had special Safaris that were advertised only to our members.



PARS - Beyond the Gates

An early evening wagon ride through the acreage of the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station (PARS) is a very pleasant way to learn about the place that Door County MGs call "home." In May this year, Master Gardeners and guests rolled along and heard a wonderful commentary from Rebecca (Becky) Wiepz, PARS Superintendent.

Becky has been at PARS since 2020 and was there as an intern in 2015-16. The Research Station, as it is called, is celebrating its Centennial this year, as it was established in 1922. It is one of 12 research stations in Wisconsin (we have more than most states), each doing research on the local crops and conducting other projects.

There are 120 acres at PARS, of which 70 are tillable. As might be expected, there are deer, so electric fences, soap, Milorganite and a couple of hunters are on hand. Five of the wooded acres are going to be used for future woodlot management education.

The USDA Potato Genebank is also on the premises, researching potatoes, with the goal of supporting breeding efforts and preventing die-off of a vital world crop. This operation is separate from the rest of the Research Station.

Cherries, apples, and grapes are the major fruit crops in Door County, so PARS focuses on growing them and doing research. They can then make recommendations to fruit producers in our area.

Pesticides are used because the fruit being grown requires them to achieve industry quality standards. Cherry fruit fly, Spotted Wing Drosophila and fungal pathogens are big problems in Door County. Organic production is not common here; it is very difficult. Cider apples and grapes have the most potential for being grown organically.

It is a lot of work to successfully grow fruit, but people who have land in Door County want to do it. They ask the Research Station for advice.

CHERRIES

Cherries, primarily the Montmorency variety, have been grown in Door County since the early 1900's. PARS is part of a large collaborative effort that is experimenting with high density plantings of tart cherry trees, to see if they have potential for commercial production. The hope is that over the row harvesting will cause less damage to the trees.



Researcher Jamie Patton spoke to the group about soils.

APPLES

PARS is working with Honeycrisp apples using Cortlands as pollinizers. (Wood Market apple growers are using crabapples as pollinizers.) The Triumph apple, developed at the University of Minnesota, was tested at PARS; the Viking apple also has a connection.

Did You Know? A plant that provides pollen is called a pollinizer, while the creature that moves the pollen around is called a pollinator.

Door County makers of champagne-style cider buy European cider apples from the Station.

This year, PARS had the opportunity to support an experiment to control fireblight on apples. Next year, they will be doing a research project on fungal canker in apples.

Becky says that PARS is doing high density planting of apple trees because it is considered more efficient. The smaller canopy allows for more efficient penetration of light, air, and pesticides and leads to higher fruit quality overall. These systems have also been shown to have increased per acre yields relative to free standing tree systems.

For both apples and cherries, different rootstocks are planted to control the size of the trees as well as improve disease and drought tolerance. The same rootstock is planted in various states for comparison of growth.

GRAPES

The Grapes that PARS grows are Marquette, used for red wine, and Itasca, used for white wine. Both were developed by the University of Minnesota. They have sold the grapes they grow to local wineries, like Von Stiehl in Algoma, as well as to others in the past. They will soon begin planting table grapes.

OTHER CROPS

Looking beyond the fruit, one sees all kinds of things at PARS. One interesting crop is Kernza, a perennial grain crop used as a flour and in other ways. They are also growing barley and oats of different genetic types. There is a kids' area with pumpkins and

sunflowers planted for youth outreach. The Milpa or Chaos gardening area features an approach originated by the Mayans. The area of flowers by the highway? It was planted in collaboration with Fish and Wildlife to help support pollinators throughout the season and is also used for outreach and education.

Many thanks to Becky for giving us insight into the "outback" at PARS! We are grateful for PARS' on-going support and collaboration.



Welcome Gathering for Alumni Master Gardeners

The weather was perfect for a late summer afternoon party to celebrate the addition of a new group to the DCMGA: the Alumni Master Gardeners.

Shawn Mathys reports that 55 people attended the event on August 31. Twenty-five new Alumni Master Gardeners were there. There were also current Master Gardeners and representatives from Friends of the Garden Door and the current Foundations in Gardening class.

Master Gardener Maribeth Hetherington opened her beautiful gardens to the group and led a tour, explaining the history and philosophy of the gardens.

Her patio and deck were the perfect venue for a spectacular potluck with delicious appetizers, salads and desserts.

It was apparent that people had a wonderful time and that the alumni were excited to be able to “rejoin” DCMGA and gather with old and new friends. We look forward to seeing them again, along with more new alumni members.



2022 Plant Fair Recap

At the end of the growing season, let's revisit the Plant Fair and look forward to another.

Nancy Goldberg, Plant Fair Chair, submitted a comprehensive, detailed report this summer. She characterized the Fair as an opportunity to challenge the traditional plant sale that had taken place for many years. We hadn't had a plant sale for two years due to COVID.

A fundamental change was to omit perennials from the sale. Perennials from members could not be donated due to the risk of jumping worms. It was decided not to purchase perennials for resale as before, but to concentrate on growing annuals in the Greenhouse.

The event became a **Fair**, with emphasis on **education and enjoyment**. Throughout the process, care was taken with cost outlay, records, and ways to make less work.

The plant selection included a good number of unusual annuals, a wide variety of herbs, and a curated group of vines. We essentially sold out of the vines, the 40 varieties of tomatoes, the peppers, and the other vegetables. Annuals with a flower and a strong stem sold well.

A new Marketplace was offered with donated garden-related items for sale. Live music was added among the booths for ambiance.

It should be reiterated that our major fundraiser was a resounding success! We netted \$15,000 after expenses, which will be well used in our quest to provide horticultural education to the public.

Nancy summarized other positive aspects of the Fair. "The MGVs that were active in its success took the opportunity to **connect with each other and have fun**. We engaged the community with one-on-one education as we sold plants. We had a greater presence with like-minded organizations that had tables at the event. We were able to donate unsold plants to non-profits, making new connections within the Door County community."

Some statistics: First Pick, the ticketed opportunity on Friday evening, brought 134 adults and 138 cars to the Fair, more than anticipated. On Saturday, there were 373 adults and 255

cars. Almost 5300 plants were sold, most of them at a competitive price of \$3.00.



The Plant Fair was indeed a great success. **For this worthy event to continue, there is need for A LOT of members to get engaged.** Please consider how you can be involved.

Scenes from Plant Fair 2022

Right: Dale Vogel was one of the parking volunteers who welcomed customers to the Plant Fair.

Below right: Sam Koyen, Door County Invasive Species Team Coordinator, spoke with visitors about problems with invasive plants.



Left: The herb tent was popular with visitors.





Left and below left: Visitors of all ages took home plants and garden items from the Marketplace.

Below: MGV Cheryl Zettel showed off one of the sunflowers grown for the Plant Fair.



Left: MGVs gathered at the plant tally table - Barb Henkelman, Sue Kunz, Lynn Polacek and Anne Marie Ott.

Door County Seed Library

cultivating the power of seed...



Fall is certainly in the air! On September 17, the Seed Library held a garlic/seed giveaway event at Penne's house in Sturgeon Bay. We distributed all 35 bags of donated garlic, plus hundreds of seed packets. We donated the remaining leftover seeds to the Southern Door School District so that we can start with fresh seed inventory next year.

Additionally, on September 23, the Door County Seed Library planning team held a project kickoff meeting for the 2023 reopening of its seed libraries. In addition to planning for next year's reopening, our planning team is fleshing out a new leadership team structure and is in the process of recruiting to fill several volunteer coordinator roles. There are lots of great volunteer opportunities, including roles in media contact/PR, backup editor/publisher for our monthly newsletter, event coordinator, and educational coordinator.

Our next event will be on November 5 at Crossroads (time tbd), when planning team member Don Gustafson will lead a native seed collection hike in the Crossroad's meadow. We will also be distributing free packets of native seeds as well as winter sowing instructions at this event. Yes, you can sow seeds outdoors in winter!! This is a collaborative project with Wild Ones of the Door Peninsula and Crossroads.



Please send an email to Penne Wilson at penne@pobox.com if you'd like to learn more about these volunteer opportunities and/or how to attend our planning team meetings. We would LOVE to have you on our team!

Member Garden Spotlight - Lee Ann Casper

My favorite garden is the one I planted for pollinators. We had an isolated strip of lawn between the end of our driveway and the "meadow," an old farm field of 70-80 acres. The grass was superfluous, so we covered that 45 x 12 area with black plastic for a few months.

In spring 2019, I put in some plants from the member perennial sale. I wanted to use a design I had but had to adapt to my garden's shape. I could not afford the quantities of plants in the design, so I moved some extra coneflowers. I transplanted the native plants from Door Landscape and Nursery that I had naively placed in the meadow.

Each year I've added more, and the area is starting to show that I am a "collector." The latest addition is some native *Monarda* that Coggin was offering at a presentation. I added a group of New England asters that I dug up from our property. A very cool find at a big box store was a packet of Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) roots that resulted in huge specimens this year!

I use shredded leaves for mulch, because it is free, and my husband can use his shredder. In the end, we had to mow a narrow strip on the edge of the meadow to keep out the meadow plants. We do have deer, but if I remember to spray the taller plants they browse, all is well.

So, do the bees and butterflies like the area? There is one smaller species of bee that is crazy about the white flowers of the *Nepeta*. The New England asters attract bumblebees. If I hovered over the garden, I would probably see more insects. Alas, this year I have not seen many butterflies around. Not even on my "dwarf" butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) right next to a window.



This section features Tall Coneflowers in the front that obscure a seven-foot Compass Plant, clumps of white catmint (Nepeta), a Cup Plant not quite blooming, and a False Indigo (Baptisia). There are seed pods on the Butterfly Weed and Common Milkweed in the field.