

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

Fall 2023 - Volume 30 - Number 3

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



*“Anyone who
thinks fallen
leaves are dead
has never watched
them dancing on a
windy day.”*

- Shira Tamir

President's Message

DCMGA is On the Move!

Fall is here, but just because the days are getting shorter and the temperatures are dropping, Door County Master Gardeners are not resting on their laurels! (gardening pun totally intended)

Here are just a few of the exciting things that are going on.

- ☞ The Garden Door fall cleanup is scheduled for October 16, with lunch provided!
- ☞ Our annual meeting and banquet is Tuesday, October 24 at the Kress Pavilion in Egg Harbor. The annual meeting begins at 5 pm followed by social time and a delicious dinner catered by Culinaria at 6:00 PM. We hope to see you there!
- ☞ A Member Engagement Summit is planned for November to brainstorm ways to engage and strengthen our membership to position our organization for future success.
- ☞ We bid a very fond farewell to our board members whose terms are ending and we are excited to welcome new board members that bring skills and experience that will take us into the future.
- ☞ The 2023 Plant Fair planning group has met to debrief and make recommendations for the future, and the greenhouse team is gearing up.
- ☞ Member Engagement is maintaining close contact with the new class to invite them to our annual meeting and other events.
- ☞ The Education Committee already has great plans for the 2024 series and summer safaris!

DCMGA

Board of Directors & Officers

President - Shawn Mathys

Vice President - Kris Lewis

Treasurer - Laura Maloney

Secretary - Lee Ann Casper

Past President - Mary Moster

Board Members

Sue Kunz

Janet Uteg

Lee Voeks

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.

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President's Message cont'd.

- ☞ As of this writing, Door County Master Gardeners volunteer time at 28 different organizations!
- ☞ We've proposed another Learning In Retirement presentation in TGD for spring 2024.
- ☞ DCMGA has a new dedicated cell phone! Our new phone number is 920-559-9814. It will be rotated between board members to monitor and return calls from prospective students, visitors to TGD, and community members with gardening questions.
- ☞ DCMGA has a new email account! Our new account is DCMGA4312@gmail.com. The new account will be used by the BUZZ and for other internal and external communications. The new cell phone number and Gmail address are both included on the DCMGA website to streamline direct communications within the organization and the wider community.

Thanks to our leadership and dedicated volunteers, DCMGA is moving forward! Thank you for all that you have done this past year, and for your willingness to continue to keep DCMGA strong and resilient to meet the challenges of 2024. We can't do it without you!

Shawn



NEW SETTING FOR DCMGA ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, October 24
5-7:00 PM
Kress Pavilion, Egg Harbor**

**5:00 PM - Annual Meeting
6:00 PM - Social Hour and Meal
(lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread,
prepared by Culinaria) and dessert**

***Watch for RSVP information coming soon
via the Buzz!***

Notes from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has been working to make our organization as effective as possible. The bi-monthly meeting was September 11. A concept being emphasized is member engagement - in simple terms, how we can attract and retain members. Plans for a November strategic planning "Member Engagement Summit", led by Mary Moster, are underway.

There will be several new board members next year, due to terms ending. Penne Wilson has agreed to stand for the board, and more nominations are underway. Anyone who is a certified DCMGV is eligible to serve on the Board. Interested members should contact Shawn Mathys or Kris Lewis as soon as possible.

The annual meeting is scheduled for October 24 at the Kress Pavilion in Egg Harbor. After the meeting, there will be a catered meal. New class members and the PARS staff are being invited as guests for the meal.



Plant Fair 2023/2024

The board supports continuing the Plant Fair as a fund-raising and educational activity. In 2023, we had a profit of about \$10,600, which is actually less than last year's. However, our criteria for success went well beyond fundraising. Plant Fair debriefing took place early in August to review "what went right" and "what can we improve." Major changes seen for next year include:

Growing plants in the PARS greenhouse only. We are required by PARS to keep plants in the nightshade family (tomatoes, peppers, petunias...) off-premises, so for two years we have used the greenhouse at Crossroads. That has been deemed an unsatisfactory situation. Now we need to figure out how to offer at least tomatoes next year.

There should be a co-leader for the greenhouse activities. All agree that greenhouse leader Lee Voeks did a most admirable job, but for one person at the helm, especially when learning, it can be a daunting task.

We should divide the work of the greenhouse into separate areas with additional leaders. One of these roles should be a watering leader.

It is possible that we will return to Memorial Day weekend for the Fair. People are ready to buy plants.

Leadership and participation commitments need to be in place by November.



Notes from The Garden Door Committee

The Garden now has a beautiful outdoor table and six chairs donated by alumni member Wendy Woldt. They are in the pergola area. A metal sculpture was received from Margie and Dan Enders and is in the pond area.



A timer has been placed on the pond for circulation.

Fifty pounds of produce from the vegetable demonstration garden was donated to Lakeshore CAP food pantry this season.

The final walkway pavers, incorporating the circle pattern, were installed on September 26.

The fall LIR tour took place on September 27 with about 25 people attending.

Fall clean-up is scheduled for October 16th from 10-12, with lunch provided.

The 20th anniversary of The Garden Door will be in 2025. We could have a celebration and Open House.

About \$2300 has been collected to date this year from the two donation boxes.

Preparation of a new brochure for TGD is underway.



Goings-On at The Garden Door



The Garden Door was a favorite location for many painters taking part in the Plein Air Festival in July. Following the event, Penny N. sent this note to Barbara and Doug Henderson: "Thank you two and all the Master Gardeners for all of your hard work and hospitality. The gardens were gorgeous!"



Above: The pond and shed are always appealing subjects for the artists' paintings.



More Goings-On at The Garden Door



Left: Sue Kunz led the group through the shade garden during a Learning in Retirement tour on August 27.

Below: The participants enjoyed seeing the different garden areas and asked lots of great questions!



Below: As part of The Garden Door tour, the LIR participants listened to Sue Kunz and Mary Moster talk about the history of the Garden, the individual garden areas, and the many different plants.



Notes from the Education Committee

The Education Committee has provided many opportunities this summer for learning and enjoyment. Some of the public programs offered since May 1 include Door County Parks with 58 people attending, seed saving with Bevin Cohen and 23 in attendance, and Jumping Worms with Brad Herrick, very well attended with 81 people.

There have also been a good number of member safaris. The visits have included parks, member properties, plantings for organizations and more. Be alert for safaris - they can pop up at any time!

Planning has begun for the 2024 winter/spring program series. Mark Dwyer will return in January with the program "Deadheading to Division." Charlotte Lukes will delve into nature again, perhaps in April. There are other topics being considered such as shoreline restoration, rain gardens, container plantings, and more.

Here are two upcoming events to take note of:

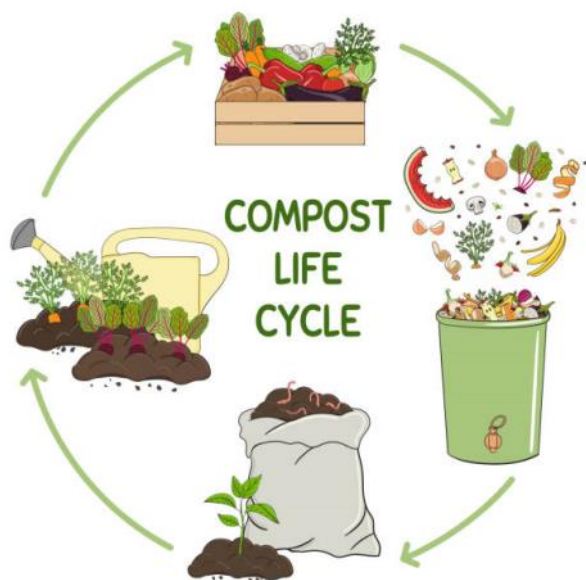
Restoration "Fall" Color Tour at Crossroads at Big Creek Saturday, October 28 -- 1:30 PM

The tour will be conducted by Naturalist Coggin Herringa and is coordinated by Door County Master Gardeners Association and Wild Ones of the Door Peninsula. Meet at the entrance of the Collins Learning Center. Free and open to the public.



Composting Potluck At Crossroads at Big Creek Tuesday, November 2 -- 6:00 PM

Join Wild Ones of the Door Peninsula and the Door County Master Gardeners for a fresh look at composting. The community is invited to an (optional) "Heavy hors d'oeuvre" potluck, a meal of bite sized samples. Each participant is asked to bring a plate of "finger-food" — anything from appetizers to desserts. Following the meal, the leftovers and scraps will be sorted and compostable items scraped into a five gallon compost bucket. Coggin Heeringa will provide a short presentation on the environmental benefits of composting and how to get started!



On Safari with DCMG Volunteers



Above: Mark and Michaela Holey gave a tour of their beautiful prairie gardens in Sturgeon Bay.

Right: MGV Karen Newbern offered a behind-the-scenes tour and shopping opportunity at Door Landscape and Nursery near Carlsville.

Below: Doug Burich welcomed safari participants to his property across the highway from Door Landscape.



Master Gardeners are Always Learning



Above: MGVs and Wild Ones members enjoyed seeing Don Gustafson's impressive pollinator gardens. He also led the group into his orchard for a peach giveaway - yum!

Right: The Pollinator Demonstration Garden at the entrance of the Ridges Sanctuary Nature Center attracts many interested human visitors as well as insect pollinators.

Below: The Toft Community Garden, also known as Emma's Garden, offers space for Baileys Harbor residents to grow their own produce and ornamental plants. Ann Marie Ott and Karen Smith applied for and received grant funding for both projects.



Poetry Inspired by The Garden Door

Carrie Sherrill invited the Art Speaks poetry group to The Garden Door this summer, to write poetry about something that inspired them in the Garden. Here are a few of their poems.

O America

Will there be a time when
you become like this garden
with it's insistence on diversity
to make it healthy and strong
conjoined and interdependent?

When will there be room for
everybody? The
tall, short, beautiful, plain,
delicate, prickly, and mysterious.

When will we all nestle together
intertwined, crowded
sharing food and water
loaning strength to the wounded?

Will we let our roots
touch each other in a
tangled beautiful mess
of love?

-- Gary Johnson

Meditation from the Gazebo

July sashays through the garden
wafts her languid perfume
among Master Gardeners
as they bend to their work.

Olfactory wildfires pull every nose upward:
"Rose? Monarda? No, not that, it's –
Marigold!" And there they are –
their midsummer smiles

buoyed by chant of lark, robin, cardinal
and the percussive of the weed whacker.
The applause of traffic from Highway 42
filters through arbor vitae.

July has forgotten
she is supposed to make us sweat.
Perhaps she has June in mind?
Thinks it's September?

But she is July,
she of mercurial moods, fickle promises
intoxicating kisses.
She will only stay a few more days.

Just for now, just for now –
sit with her
and let her run her fingers
through your hair.

-- Peter Sherrill

Gateways

Wind wafting wild fragrant rugosa rosa
greet me as I enter through this garden gate.
The old friend, long remembered from grandmother's gardens past,
familiar flowering scent,
takes my breath away.
I breath in, my lungs lifted, entwined with the fragrance filled air.
Flower fairies are my campanula companions
and the warbler's song, sweet and clear
echoes of meditation bells ringing, calling to contemplation.
This garden; a living, breathing succulent source of renewal.

-- Julie Roenigk



Native Plant Feature: Thimbleberry

Editor's Note: Earlier this summer, Penne Wilson was contacted by Melissa, a Master Gardener volunteer from Brown County, inquiring about the availability of Thimbleberry plants. She was thinking about adding them to a "Food Forest" in one of their parks. Penne forwarded the request to Doug and Barbara Henderson, who in turn sent it to Hugh Zettel, who has the plants growing on his property. Hugh and Melissa were able to connect, and some of our Door County thimbleberries are now at home in Seymour Park. Plants really do connect us all!

Thimbleberry, *Rubus parviflorus*, is a unique member of the Rose family. Rubus is a Latin word that refers to brambles, and *parviflorus* means "small flowers." The common name refers to the hollow cupped fruits, which can fit like a thimble on one's finger.

This relative of raspberries and blackberries is most common in the West, but also grows near Lakes Superior and Michigan. Leaves are similar to those of maples, but are fuzzy on both sides. Unlike other brambles, Thimbleberries do not bear thorns. The flowers are relatively large and resemble a white wild rose. Flowering occurs in late June, and the fruits ripen in July. Fruits are very soft, somewhat more tart than raspberries, and make excellent jam (with the addition of a lot of sugar!).

Thimbleberry is one of the most beneficial shrubs for wildlife. The berries are eaten by countless birds, as well as raccoons, foxes, squirrels and opossums. Leaves are browsed by deer and rabbits, and also serve as larval food for caterpillars of several native butterflies and moths. The flowers provide pollen and nectar to butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and other insect pollinators.



When considering Thimbleberry for the home landscape, there are a few factors to keep in mind. This shrub will grow in a variety of conditions, from full sun to nearly full shade, and is not particular about moisture. However, it does seem to do best in moist, well drained soils in full sun. The shrub is quite large at maturity, from 4-6 feet tall and wide, and can spread quite rapidly by rhizomes, so it should be planted where it has some room to roam. Planting for erosion control on a sunny hillside would be a great use for Thimbleberry.

Thimbleberry plants and seeds are available from a number of online nurseries, including Prairie Nursery in Westfield WI (prairienursery.com). They can also be transplanted from existing stands, so if a friend or neighbor has Thimbleberries on their property, they might allow you to dig a few. If you have the space, give them a try!

Digging thimbleberries between tree roots is hard work, but Hugh and Melissa were up to the task.

Member Garden Spotlight: John and Karen Kierstyn

Karen begins: "Having retired from education in 1998, we built a house on Samuels Creek in Sturgeon Bay but needed lots of landscaping. We seriously started gardening in 2003 when we took the Master Gardener class. In designing we made beds to enclose all our trees so John did not have to mow around them. We experimented with various trees and shrubs we saw in our travels, but not always successfully. As we entered our 80s, our focus turned to less maintenance and redoing some of the beds. Gardening still brings us into a zone of calm and peace."

The Kierstyns' extraordinary yard is like a carefully landscaped arboretum, with much to see. There are unusual specimen trees such as a ginkgo, leatherwoods, a tamarisk tree that blooms pink and lacy, and a Japanese larch. The leaves of the ginkgo tree turn bright yellow in fall, and when it's time, drop off all at once. Two chamaeciparis, (false cypress) flank the steps to the deck. There are pagoda dogwoods and a redbud which flourishes in our northern climate. Sweeps of hostas are used as a major landscaping element. There are various paths to the same destination, as John points out. Karen keeps all the details of their landscaping in a special notebook.

A bonus is a spring-fed creek that runs on both sides of the yard and eventually empties into the bay. Cardinal flowers grow naturally in one area. The lawn is a lovely velvety green, helped along with an irrigation system using the water on the property.



Member Garden Spotlight cont'd.

Karen created a plan for the home with all the windows overlooking the beauty and privacy of the backyard, which has some larger trees on the fringes. There the couple feeds the birds with marvel mix (peanut butter, Crisco and cornmeal), has installed a weather station, and offers a home to bats.

What is most impressive is that this haven has been created almost exclusively through the couple's own efforts and love of horticulture. They designed the landscape; John did all the edging, the walkways, and some of the stonework in the creek. He mows all the grass with a push mower and takes care of the pruning.

They are now working on enhancing the yard with the goal of simplicity. A tree hydrangea recently became the focus of a new bed in the front. Currently, John and Karen are Master Gardener alumni, and they keep in touch.



Door County Seed Library

cultivating the power of seed...



The Door County Seed Library planning team has been working on several exciting upcoming events:

October 15, 1 to 3 PM – Ken Paschke bean threshing, 329 N Geneva Ave, west side of Sturgeon Bay.

Local gardener Ken Paschke has been growing and saving these beans for over 58 years! As a result of his diligent seed-saving efforts, he has created a new variety that has adapted to the unique climate and soil conditions in Door County. Ken gifted us with these seeds at our seed swap in 2020 and we named the seeds in his honor. Since then, we have developed a network of seed stewards who volunteer to grow out and save these seeds every year to help us maintain this special bred-in-Door County variety.

At this event, volunteers will help Ken Paschke bean seed stewards thresh and winnow their seeds. Many hands make light work!

Please bring a chair. If you have one or two 5-gallon buckets, that would be helpful too.

January 27, 10 AM to noon – Community Seed Swap at the Jane Greene Room in the Sturgeon Bay Library. After a four-year hiatus, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting a community seed swap on National Seed Swap Day. We encourage everyone to save some extra seeds this fall to share at this great community event. If you have any questions about how to save seeds, you can check out the Resources tab on the seed library website: <https://doorcountyseedlibrary.org/>. That tab also has a link to the Seed Donation Form that you can fill out to bring along with your seeds.



Door County Seed Library cont'd.

Winter Book Club/Study Group – dates/location TBD. Several members of our planning team have expressed an interest in forming a book club/study group. We will select a good seed saving book and then over the course of the winter we'll go through the chapters to discuss/learn the different ways to save seeds. Our tentative plan is to meet once a month. We can also offer the meeting via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. If this sounds interesting to you and/or you'd like more information as we fine-tune our plans, please send an email to Penne Wilson at penne@pobox.com.

Are you getting our newsletters? We send out a monthly Seedy Inspirations Newsletter to all seed library members as well as DCMGA volunteers, alumni, and Friends of The Garden Door. If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to subscribe, please send an email to Penne at penne@pobox.com.

And last, but not least, please let me know if you are interested in volunteering with the seed library (your volunteer time counts as DCMGA service hours) or would like to learn more about what we do. Our planning team consists of several Master Gardeners as well as community members from various local organizations. We'd love to have you on our team!

Below and right: The Seed Library will again sponsor a Seed Swap event on January 27. This event is a great opportunity to share information about the seeds available and encourage people to try new varieties.



“Take Note” of These Announcements

We heard that in one week the greenhouse crew transplanted 1200 seedlings!

Thank you to Donna Hake for hosting our summer gathering! Over 35 MGVs attended.

Your newsletter editors are always looking for photos of your amazing gardens - send them to mgdceditor@gmail.com.



In September, Lu Maloney took a photo of an unusual bumblebee on a Goatsbeard flower in TGD. She sent the photo to Bumblebee Brigade and they confirmed it was a Rusty Patched Bumblebee, a Federally endangered species!

