

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

Spring 2023 - Volume 30 - Number 2

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



*In every gardener,
there is a child
who believes in the
seed fairy.
-- Robert Brandt*

President's Message

DCMGA Volunteers are the Best!

April was National Volunteer Appreciation Month, and I want to thank all of our dedicated DCMGA members that give of their time and talents so generously to make our organization a strong and vital part of our Door County communities. With every hour we contribute to The Garden Door, our education programs, and the community organizations where we offer gardening support, we truly live out our mission statement to "make a positive impact on horticulture in our community through education, community outreach and stewardship of our environment"

Here are a few statistics from the UW Extension WI Master Gardener Annual Report for 2021 (2022 results were not yet available). In 2021, the second year of COVID, DCMGA had 88 Certified Master Gardener Volunteer members, 8th among the 69 Wisconsin counties with Master Gardener organizations. Our DCMGA volunteers reported 2,542 volunteer hours – ranking 7th among all counties! That's an incredible amount of commitment to our mission and I am so proud of what we are doing together.

How did we accumulate all those volunteer hours? In a wide variety of ways! Our Education Committee has served up interesting speakers and relevant presentations for our winter and spring programs open to the public. We are looking forward to a host of new summer safari opportunities to visit sites around the county and connect with fellow gardeners.

The Garden Door cleanup day was a huge success, making the garden ready to host a presentation to a group of 45 LIR participants that was a resounding success. Our board of directors, leaders and committee members work tirelessly in planning, organizing, and governing our organization and activities.

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.

And, with 9 days remaining until the 2023 Plant Fair, our volunteers have put in countless hours in the PARS and Crossroads greenhouses 'dirt-bagging', sowing seeds, mentoring, transplanting, watering, fertilizing, pinching back, labeling - and just last weekend moving plants to the John hut to begin the hardening off process in preparation for the sale. There is still much to be done in the days ahead, but the plants are looking great, the petunias and marigolds are gorgeous, the tomatoes will be amazing, and the marketplace will be hopping! Everything is coming together for another successful plant fair – and it's all because of YOU, our DCMGA volunteers!

Shawn

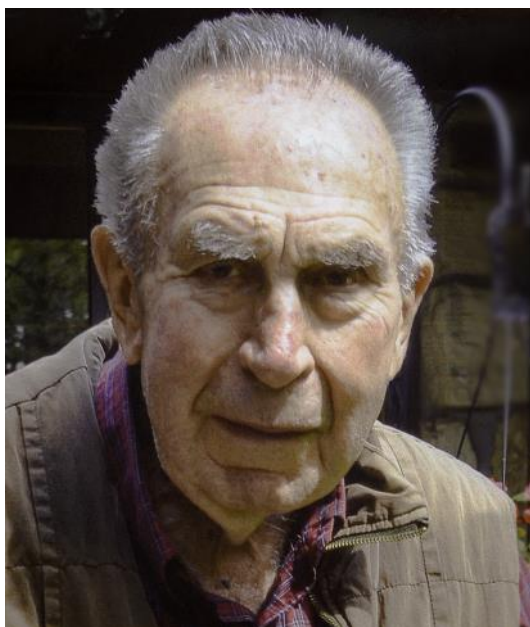
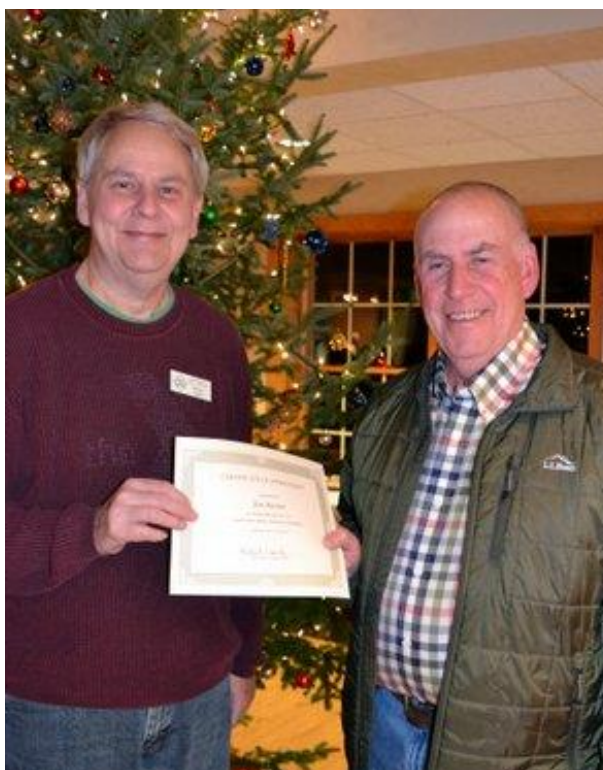


DCMGA Members Given "Honored MG" Status

An older photo foretells that MGVs Mike VanEss (left) and Jim Baxter (right) would both be awarded Honored Master Gardener status. Mike was recognized this year, and Jim in 2022. Honored status requires a minimum of ten years as a Master Gardener volunteer while making significant contributions as a MG.

Jim was a presenter for both the education lecture series and Tuesdays in The Garden Door. He also maintained the grass and cactus gardens in TGD, and served as the main supervisor of the Gardens.

Mike was instrumental in founding the DCMGA in 1995, served as DCMGA president, and has handled the Buzz and the website for years.



The very first DCMGA Honored Master Gardener in Door County was Carl Scholz (left), who died at the age of 94 in 2022. He was a remarkable man who was devoted to education and the environment. He spent more than twenty five years as a Master Gardener and led many activities involving children. The large piece of limestone in the Pollinator Garden with a plaque about the stone and the escarpment was an idea of Carl's, and was installed in his honor.

Notes from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on May 8 to consider current information and issues of significance for the future of our organization. Here are some of them:

From the UW Ext. Master Gardener Annual Report for 2021

All from 2021---2022 statistics not available:

DCMGA had 88 members, which was the 8th largest membership among 69 counties.

We had 2542 volunteer hours reported, which was 7th among counties. We reported 962 education hours.

Graphs for the number of Wisconsin Master Gardeners from 2001 to 2021 show membership peaking during 2008-2011 (high of 3800) followed by overall declining numbers ending at 2919 in 2021. Shawn expressed concern about the sharp decline of **new** Master Gardeners over the last five years. We are working on reversing this trend.

Sunshine Report - Cards of sympathy have been sent to the families of Rod Schleis and Kaye Knutson, past active Master Gardeners. A donation was made from DCMGA to Northern Sky Theatre in honor of Rod, and to Third Avenue Playworks in honor of Kaye. Rod was an active MGV for over 20 years, and some of his garden art pieces are still in the Gardens. Kaye was a key player in the building of the "wence" in the early years of the Garden.

Family request - There has been a request to place the cremains of a family member within The Garden Door. That is allowed by State law and is acceptable to PARS Superintendent Becky. The Garden Door Committee members are discussing the request and how it could best be handled.

Website Update and DCMGA membership recruitment - An update of the current website has been proposed and another proposal was put forth that would help grow membership numbers. For both we would be working with a communications firm whom we would pay. We will need to decide if we want to do either or both of these. We would pursue a grant or grants to fund this.

New Members - We have a half dozen new members from the 2022 class. These are people who took the FIG (Foundations in Gardening) course. We also have some new alumni and new Friends of the Garden Door members. All good news!

Below left: Lee Ann Casper with Roseann and David Bollinger (Friends of The Garden Door) and Chriss Daubner.

Below right: New Alumni Member Krista Samson and Ruth Wessan, Friend of The Garden Door.



Notes from The Garden Door Committee

The Committee met May 15 at Crossroads for a look at the busy summer agenda. Projects for the season include:

- creating a new brochure with a map and descriptions of the gardens
- installation of the circular paver design in the dome area of the Memorial Garden (last piece of the project!)
- progress in repairing the pond, with special advice
- converting the Fairy Garden to new use; for this season there may be a cutting garden
- improving the lawn edges of last year's paved areas for appearance and safety
- replacing the faded garden signs. A grant has been received.



The West Perennial Garden, the Pond, the Grass Garden and the Rose Garden are looking for new caretakers - contact Sue Kunz if interested! The spring Garden clean-up took place on May 16 and an LIR tour of the Garden was on May 18. The straw bale method of growing will be demonstrated on June 5 by Dora Leonardson. And TGD will again be hosting Plein Air artists on July 26.



Pictured are just a few of the many MGVs who helped with the spring clean-up of The Garden Door.

Upper left: John Kierstyn in the Herb Garden, joined by some interested visitors.

Lower left: Marge Bultman clipping seedheads in the Succulent Garden.

Above: Sally Naden had the challenging task of weeding the Cactus Garden.



Summer Abecedarian

Almanac advises on ants and asters, allium
beans, basil and beets. Bees and butterflies
crowd the cosmos, cukes and corn compete for the heat.
Dandelions dawdle across the dense lawn, daisies and dill dance
evenings along. Eggplants hang heavy in elegant purple while
fennel fronds flutter on willowy breeze. Fire flies float above
green grasses, blinking us onward; an off and on tease.
Hummingbirds dart into hollyhock blossoms they hover
incessant, attack and retreat. Invest in a camera, a pen and a
journal, and jot down the progress through June and July
keep notes on the kale, and cover the cabbage, no worms to
linger inside leathery leaves. Lettuces lavish, and luscious
make salads, while monarchs mingle with melon and mint.
Nasturtiums kneel at the feet of their neighbors, crawl
over and under the old obelisk. Obsess over weather:
protect all the pumpkins from pockmarks and hail due to
quick summer storms. Quell all the rumors of deer and of
rabbits who romp 'round the garden when night time is warm.
Saunter slowly through sunsets, watch sunflowers sway
taunt tomatoes to ripen, turn turnips from earth
unleash all the blossoms, hear bees buzzing by, a
vibrant concoction beneath August sky. And as summer
winds down, we feel very wealthy, our work was worthwhile
x-actly, we say. The long days of planting and weeding we
yearned for on blustery, wintery, faraway days. So enjoy the last
zinnias, and plan the next garden, for springtime is only a few zzzz's away.

Carrie Sherrill

Abecedarian: A poem in which the first letter of each line or stanza follows sequentially through the alphabet.

Dress Like a Master Gardener

Here is your opportunity to obtain DCMGA embroidered logo clothing. Many different items of apparel, including long-sleeve shirts, tees, aprons, and hats are offered through:

FLS Banners
254 Louisiana Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
800-537-0463.

There is an on-line catalogue at companycasuals.com where you can see everything available. (Put **isp10** in the search box to see the denim shirt that many of us have.) You may want to go into the FLS store to see some examples or try things on for size. You can order there, call them with your order and questions or email them.

The items will be ready for pickup in two to three weeks and you will be notified when your order is ready. Order as soon as possible for the best arrival time!



Barbara Shakel and Janet Uteg showing off their DCMGA logo garb while working in the greenhouse in 2019.

Screen printed items with The Garden Door's logo are also available with a minimum group order of twelve. We will be working on this separately and you will receive information.



See you at the Plant Fair!
Lee Ann Casper

Denim shirts, like the ones worn by Barbara and Doug Henderson (left) are a popular choice with DCMGA members. Barb Henkelmann's logo T-shirt (below) is a perfect match for the bags of potting mix she's using.



Notes from the Education Committee

The Education Committee is evaluating the lectures and programs that have been offered so far this year. An excellent attendance of 67 people on April 25 was seen at Crossroads with our local naturalist, Charlotte Lukes, presenting slides of "Spring Woods Awakening." The overview of Door County Parks by Tim Kazmierczak, formerly of PARS, had 59 at Crossroads on May 4. Several other events attracted 40 to 44 attendees, and all were well presented and well received.

The committee is now busy planning what will take place this spring, summer and into fall. Next up: a wide variety of **Safaris!** designed for Master Gardeners. These are smaller casual excursions, hikes, and visits, with an emphasis on fun and finding out about places, plants, and projects for organizations in our own county. Some are scheduled already, but pop-up safaris are very possible. Here are some safaris that are planned-- they will be announced on the **BUZZ**.

In May, before this newsletter appeared, was a tour of the Collins/Aten Property on Carlsville Road, a hike at Meridian Park near Jacksonport, and a wildflower tour in Sawyer Woodland Park in Sturgeon Bay. At the end of June is the opportunity to tour Door Landscape and Nursery and the property of neighboring home-owners. (You will be able to make some pleasing purchases.) August 20 will be a wildflower prairie open house at the Gustafson Property on Bay Shore Drive. Tours of three organizations where Master Gardeners work - The Ridges Sanctuary, Toft Community Garden, and Door Shakespeare, all in Baileys Harbor - are planned for mid-September. There may also be an introduction to the biocontrol of invasive purple loosestrife using beetles, presented by Sam Koyen of the Door County Invasives Team. We are hoping for a colorful finale in the fall with a trolley tour of selected DC parks with Tim Kazmierczak.



Educational events are designed as continuing education. We also attend for the camaraderie and the personal satisfaction of continuing to learn. The more we learn and experience, the better Master Gardeners we become.



DCMGAs On Safari

The Education Committee has already held a few Safaris this spring. Watch the Buzz for details on more outings this summer, including tours, wildflower hikes and visits to private properties.



A visit to the property of Dan Collins and Nancy Aten near the Door County Land Trust's Bayshore Blufflands Preserve took us tramping through the woods and wetlands in search of spring wildflowers and other plants.

Right: Woodside Park is a little sliver of property located between Sawyer School and Highway 42/57 in Sturgeon Bay. Coggin Heeringa introduced members to the amazing variety of spring ephemeral wildflowers on the property, as well as discussing the invasive Garlic Mustard which is prolific in the park.

Below: One of the upcoming Safaris will be a tour of Don Gustafson's lovely pollinator gardens. Don uses mostly native plants and will share his favorites with us during his tour.



The Plant Fair is Here....

Yes, the Plant Fair is here, after months, when so many things were happening.

Deciding to go forward, creating a plan, ordering seeds, compiling binders of information, learning, mentoring, sowing, transplanting, time to fertilize; pinching, pinching again, working side by side, working alone; always watering, not too much, not too little; checking the temperature, opening the windows, closing the windows; assessing, assessing, transporting, plants hardening in the hut. An endeavor of art and science that deserves much gratitude.

Planning through the months for the two days of the Fair: Which weekend?, publicity, signs, special music. Where should the marketplace be located? And all the plants? How do we feed the volunteers? Who takes care of what? Finding flats for the purchased plants. What about the parking? Logistics, details. Organizing a smooth and pleasant experience for all.

And now, tables of healthy green from two greenhouses, with ornamentals and organic edibles, all in their assigned places and ready for the public to enjoy buying and growing. With information tables, a raffle, a marketplace, and a community spirit of joy between helpful volunteers and the public.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS (all events at PARS)

Day	Date	Time	Activity
Thursday	June 1	4 pm	Member & TGD pre-sale; BYOB (bring your own boxes!)
Thursday	June 1	4–8 pm	Setup tables in shed & classroom; begin moving plants
Friday	June 2	7–10 am	Setup continues; tents and tables ready for merchandise at 10 am
Friday	June 2	10 am–5 pm	Plant, merchandise, parking, barriers & signage setup continues
Friday	June 2	5–7 pm	1 st Pick! Sell! Sell! Sell!
Saturday	June 3	7:30-8:30 am	Prep for public sale
Saturday	June 3	8:30 am - noon	Plant Fair open to the public. Sell! Sell! Sell!
Saturday	June 3	Noon – 2 pm	Tear down and clean-up



Just a few of the items that will be available at the Marketplace.

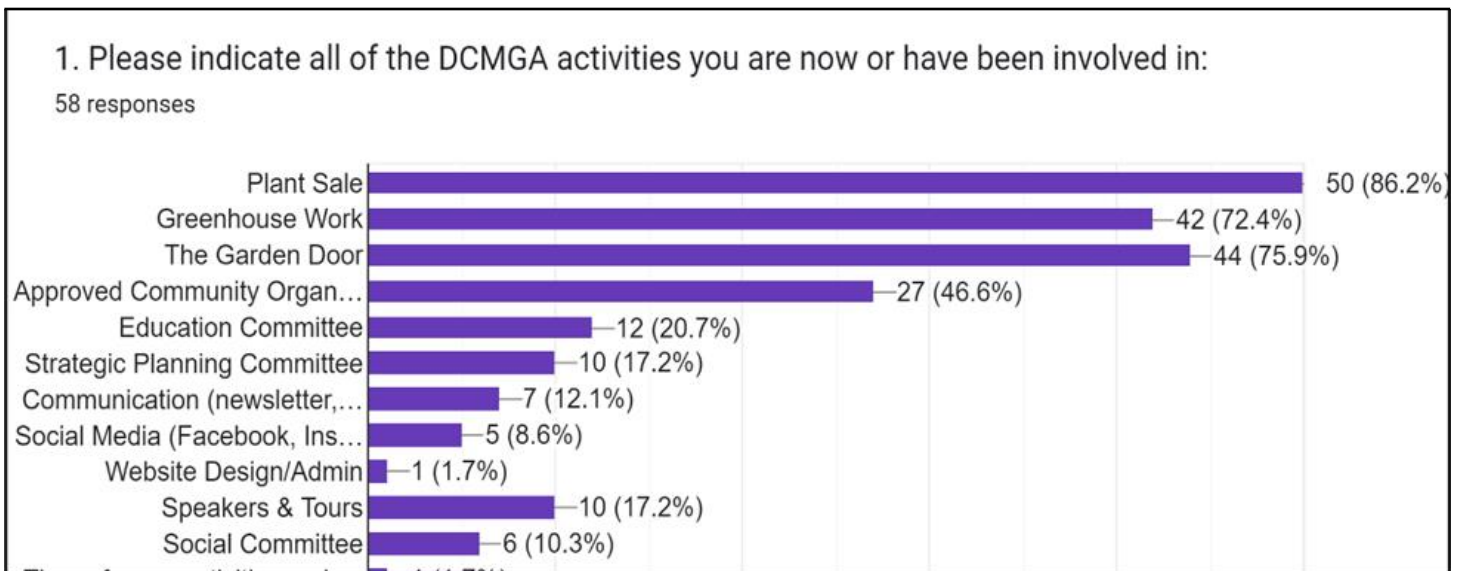


Time & Talent Survey: The Results are In!

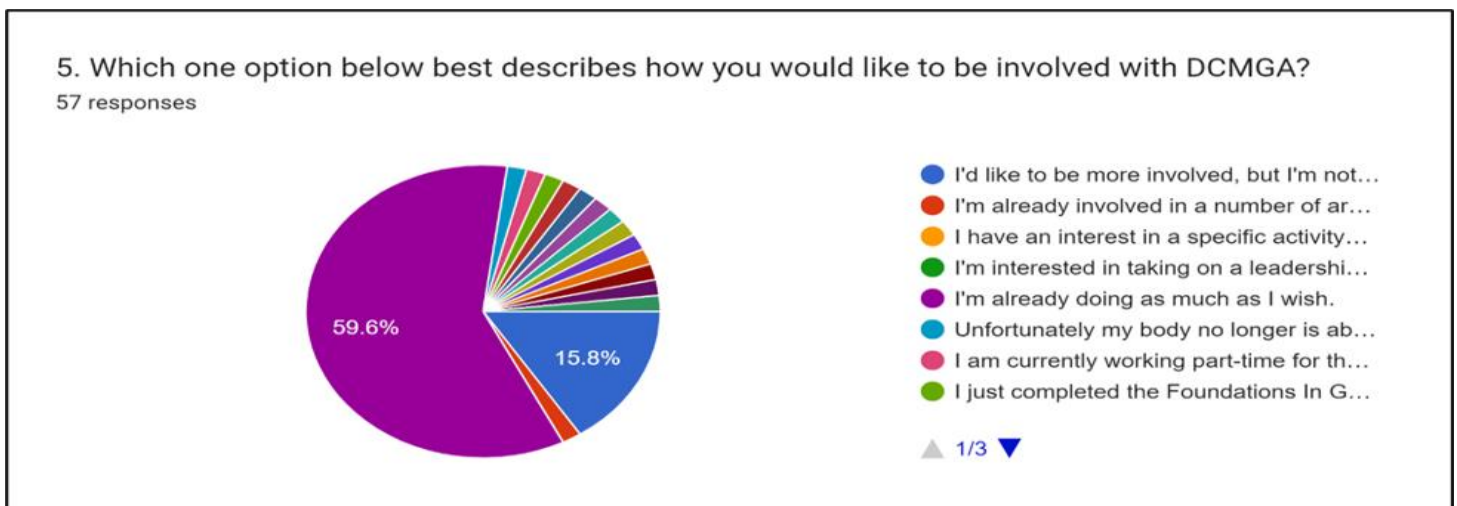
Thank you to all of the members who responded to our Time & Talent Survey earlier this year. Our goal was to compile an accurate list of DCMGA member resources to better match the needs of the organization with the talents of our volunteers, whether certified members, alumni, students or friends. And you made it happen! We received a nearly 50% response rate to the survey, which any researcher will tell you is excellent for a membership organization such as DCMGA.

The Board and the Strategic Planning Committee will be using the survey data for future planning and recruitment. Here are some key highlights of the survey:

Most members are engaged with DCMGA through the Plant Sale (86%), The Garden Door (76%) or greenhouse work (72%). It's not surprising that these major projects make up the bulk of the DCMGA experience for many members. When asked what projects respondents were not involved in now, but have interest in, the same three projects were the highest ranked: Plant Sale (31%), greenhouse work (26%) and The Garden Door (23%).



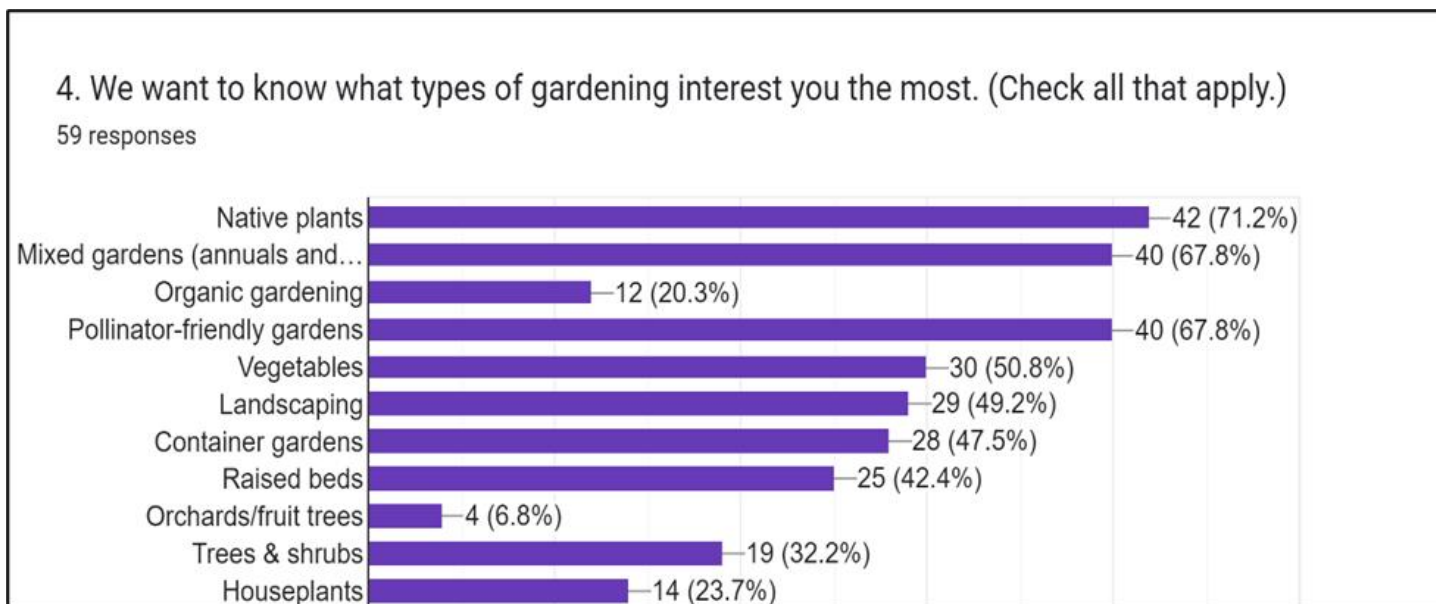
Most members are already doing all they wish to do for DCMGA: Still, a significant number of members say they are ready to do more but want direction to figure out the best fit for them. We've already reached out to these members to help find ways they can increase their involvement with DCMGA.



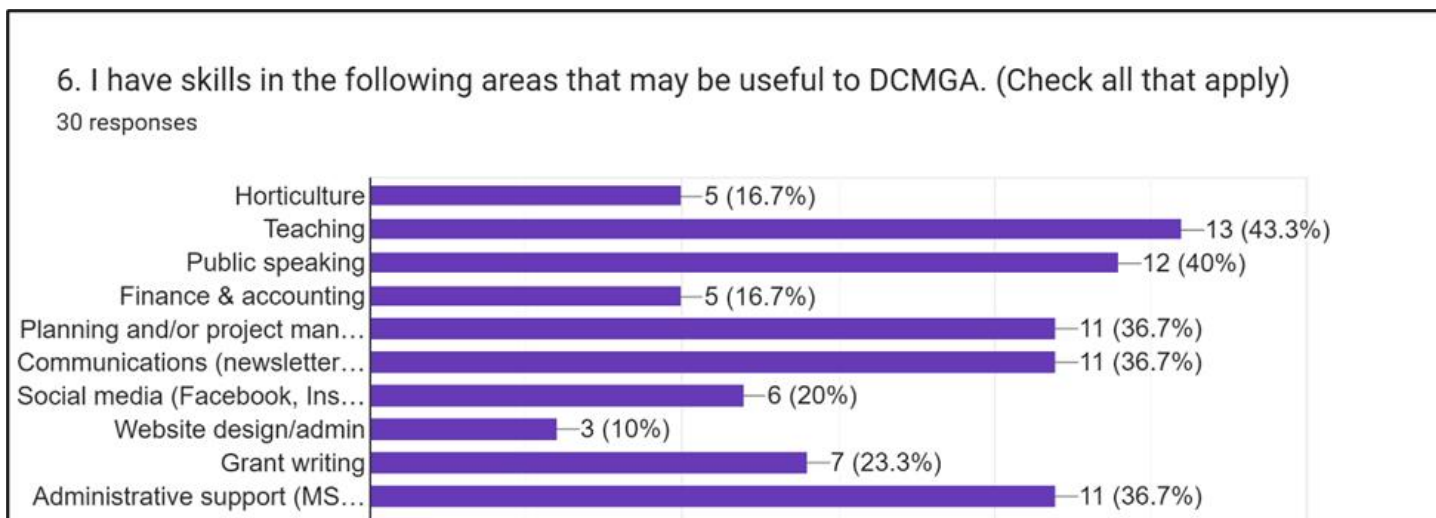
Time & Talent Survey Results cont'd.

Volunteering for community organizations is a major way of contributing for close to half (47%) of our members. Many MGs volunteer for community organizations to log their required volunteer hours and are actively involved with all types of non-profit organizations that span the entire peninsula.

Most members are interested in native plants (71%), pollinator-friendly gardens (68%) and mixed gardens (68%). While members are interested in a wide range of topics, these three were ranked of highest interest by most.



Members have many skills that could prove useful to DCMGA. The skills of our members are many and varied, with prior experience in teaching (43%), public speaking (40%), and administrative support and project management (37%) ranking highest.



Getting Ready for the Plant Fair



Above left: Dora Leonardson and Pamela Mueller seem to be enjoying their time in the greenhouse.

Above right: Trudy Crebo and Nancy Anschutz potting up some of the new seedlings.

Left: "Dirtbagging" is a very important step in preparation for sowing. Jerry Saballus and Hugh Zettel are getting the soil mix ready and filling trays and pots.

Below right: Some of the seedlings were grown in the greenhouse at Crossroads this year. Penne Wilson and her husband Bob carefully watered the seedlings.

Below right: Lu Maloney and Cheryl Zettel working with some of the transplants.





Above: Marge Bultman and Gloria Heck picking out the new seedlings and planting them into larger pots.

Right: Patrick Baird, one of the new DCMGA members, thinning and transplanting seedlings.



It takes the efforts of many volunteers to plan and prepare for the Plant Fair. Thanks to ALL who helped develop the seed list, plant, water, and nurture the plants. And a big thank you (in advance) to those who will help set up for the Fair, move and arrange sales tables, assist with parking, and all the other tasks to make the Plant Fair a success!

DID YOU MISS A DCMGA PROGRAM?

Video recordings of educational lectures can be found on the DCMGA website - DCMGA.org.

On the homepage, hover over "EDUCATION" and click on "Program Video Archive".

Scroll down to find programs that interest you.

These videos DO count for continuing education hours!

Program suggestions can also be found on the Door County Master Gardeners Facebook page.

Door County Seed Library

cultivating the power of seed...



The Door County Seed Library successfully launched its fifth season on March 20. This is our biggest year so far – we have distributed over 17,000 packets of seeds to our community through several locations and events:

- Seed library displays at all eight Door County Library branches
- Food pantries
- Library March craft bags
- Southern Door School District schoolyard garden
- Brown County Seed Library (they just opened this year!)
- United Way garden kit giveaway
- DCMGA Plant Fair (donated seed to grow plants for the Fair)
- Seed giveaways at various events, including: winter seed sowing, Every Day is Earth Day (*see photo below*), DCMGA plant fair, Pollination Day, fall native seed collection hike at Crossroads, and Door County Beekeepers Community Honey Harvest

This year we are again collaborating with the DCMGA to donate 600 seedlings and almost 800 packets of seeds for the United Way garden kit giveaway program, which offers container gardening supplies, seedlings, and seeds to ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Door County residents. Thanks to all of the MGVs who helped to grow seedlings, to Lee Voeks and

Barbara Shakal for allowing us to use some of their greenhouse space, and to Patrick Baird for coordinating the donations for this great community program.

We have recruited 17 seed stewards for our Ken Paschke bean seed steward program. Ken Paschke beans are a variety that local gardener Ken Paschke has been growing for 58 years. Due to his dedicated seed-saving efforts, he has created a new variety! Ken gifted us with these seeds at our seed swap in 2020 and we are helping to maintain the variety by asking seed stewards to grow out the seeds, save them, and donate a portion back to the seed library. If you are interested in being a seed steward, please send Penne an email at penne@pobox.com. We'll give you all the information you need to successfully save these seeds – it's easy! Thanks to Holly Green and Patrick Baird for being seed stewards for this project.

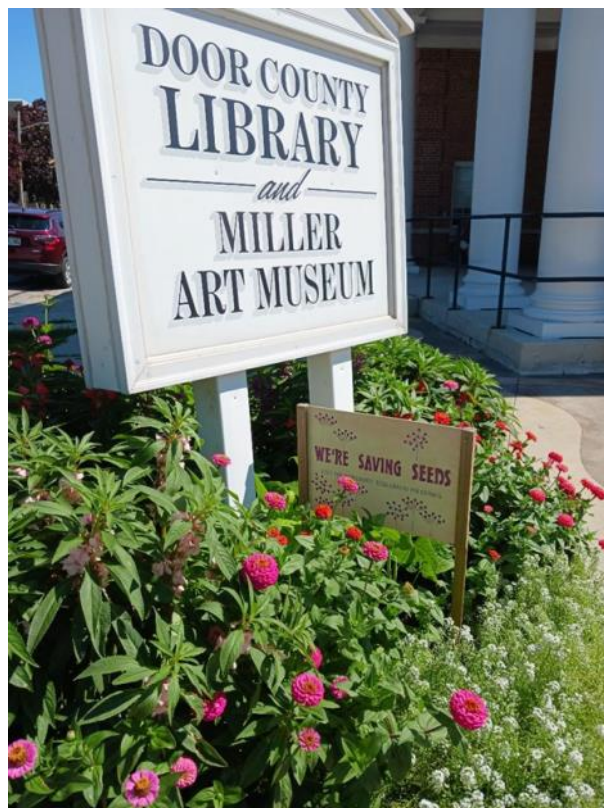


Door County Seed Library cont'd.

Our volunteers are also getting ready to plant Seed-to-Seed demo plantings at the Sturgeon Bay Library and Door County Historical Society. These demo gardens demonstrate the lifecycle of flowers, herbs, and veggies from seed to seed. Visitors can also pick up a handout at both locations that describes the varieties that we are growing and how to save their seeds. Thanks to Barbara Henkelmann for helping with this project.

As the word continues to spread about the work that our volunteers are doing, it's always nice to get a surprise financial donation! We recently received a \$100 donation from a group of local musicians who held an Earthstock music fest at Drömhus and chose to donate the proceeds to the seed library.

We provide regular updates to our community through our website (doorcountyseedlibrary.org/), Facebook page (facebook.com/DoorCountySeedLibrary), and monthly email newsletter. If you are not receiving our monthly email newsletter, please send Penne an email at penne@pobox.com and I will add you to the list. And if you are interested in volunteering with the seed library (your volunteer time counts as DCMGA service hours), just let me know!



Previous page: Seed Library planning team members Pat Webster and Bob Jorin at Every Day is Earth Day Fest at the Kress Center in Egg Harbor.

Above: Seed to Seed demo planting last summer at the Sturgeon Bay Library.

Left: Door County musician Holly Olm and Dromhus owner Heather Weasler, who made a donation to the seed library.

“Take Note” of These Announcements

Don't forget to record (and report) your hours helping with the Plant Fair!

Thank you to Lee Voeks for all his EXTRA work this spring as our Greenhouse Wrangler.

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

Watch the Buzz for announcements about upcoming Safaris and other opportunities for learning (and fun!)

