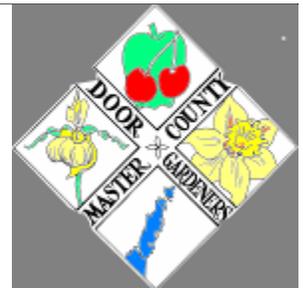




Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

A Volunteer Organization of the UW-Cooperative Extension Service



Volume 19, Number 6

December 2013 – January 2014

Kathie's Notes

The DCMGA board members voted the following people into office: Kathie Vavra, President, Mike Van Ess, Vice President, Bonnie Rankin, Secretary, and Martha Burris, Treasurer. Board members Jim Baxter, Tim Kazmierczak, and Christine Gritzmacher were welcomed by Jim McFarlin, Bill Freyman and Wendy Woldt. Everyone received new binders and paperwork. We are planning to update not only the by-laws and goals of the DCMGA, but also officer responsibilities. New committee chairs will be welcomed throughout the winter months. This is a great time to regroup and plan for 2014. Volunteer EARLY AND OFTEN!

Christine's Outreach Project Application Form will be posted on the website. This is to be used by all members chairing or leading a project OUTSIDE The Garden Door. Our focus is education and this is a prime consideration for any project MGs are volunteering for. Last year we received eleven requests for assistance. It is a great tool to help us identify requests that are in line with our mission statement. I would still appreciate pictures and descriptions of all outside gardening projects so that I can post them on the website AND list them in the annual report.

I would like to thank you for the **Above and Beyond Service Award**. As I start my third and final year as president I hope to delegate committee responsibilities. Bill Freyman and Kerry will help me enlist new people to assume some of my responsibilities and not volunteer for any more! I look forward to sharing the wealth!

Our newly formed social committee, headed by Coggin, will be planning the Christmas party on Tuesday. Tim has jumped in as The Garden Door Chair and his enthusiasm is contagious! The training committee has DESIGNED their schedule and we are ready to welcome 21 members into the Class of 2014!

Bill and Sarah have their Education Programs Chart ready. I have posted it on the website.

As of today about 60% of you have sent in your dues. I am adjusting and updating the roster as the checks roll in. It will be finalized as soon as dues and new members are processed. Jan Ziemann has written out the membership cards. They will be available at the Christmas party and future education programs.

Have a fantastic holiday season and stay warm!

Kathie

Door County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors and Officers:

President..... Kathie Vavra
Vice President..... Mike Van Ess
Treasurer.....Martha Burris
Secretary.....Bonnie Rankin
Board Members: Bill Freyman, Jim McFarlin, Wendy Woldt, Tim Kazmierczak, Jim Baxter, Chris Gritzmacher
State Board Representative.....Rod Bohn
Advisor.....Dean Volenberg

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.

Door County Master Gardeners . . . "taking care of business!"



DCMGA Board Meeting – November 20, 2013

Submitted by Bonnie Rankin

Board Members Present: Jim McFarlin, Mike VanEss, Wendy Woldt, Bill Freyman, Tim Kazmierczak, Kathie Vavra, Jim Baxter, Bonnie Rankin

Also Present: Rod Bohn, Allen Miller, Kerry Vavra, Sarah Freyman, Jan Ziemann, Barb Henderson, Doug Henderson

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. Motion was made and seconded to approve the September 18, 2013 minutes. Motion approved.

Correspondence: A discussion was held regarding the Jean Barrett tax donation and winterizing the pond.

Treasurers Report: Martha is out of town. Kathie reported the current checkbook balance.

New Officers: A motion was made and seconded to nominate Bonnie Rankin to the Secretary position. Motion carried. Mike VanEss was nominated to assume the duties of the Vice President. Motion seconded and carried.

Old Business:

DCMGA Logo – Kathie reminded everyone that the DCMGA Logo should be included on all DCMGA correspondence. Let Kathie know if you need a copy. The UW Extension logo is also available.

Meditation Tunnel – Wendy will have the chime installed this spring. It will be linked with the 10 year anniversary of TGD. *Ring in another 10 years* as an example of the phrase we could use to link them.

TGD Entrance Counter – After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have Allen purchase a counter that will do the counting of visitors. Motion approved. Allen will order the counter and installation will be made in spring.

Paver Status – Jim McFarlin reported that a draft of the grant was being proofed and would go to the foundation by electronic transmission by the end of November.

New Business:

5 Year Rolling Contract with PARS – There was a discussion regarding updating the agreement. Jim & Christine will look into it.

Goals Committee – Bill will head the Goals Committee and update goals as well as by-laws. They will be presented to the Board for approval. Jim, Rod, and Allen volunteered to help.

CD & Garden Preservation Fund – The CD comes due in December; these monies will be moved into the money market. The Preservation Fund will renew in June. If the money is pulled early for the paving, a small amount of interest will be forfeited.

TGND Signs – This will be discussed at the next Garden Door Meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

Special Events Committee – Barb & Doug will make a chart for the chairpeople of specific committees, such as Rabbit Patch, Pesto, etc. This will give specific chairpeople all the information they will need for their committee and relieve Barb & Doug from having to plan and execute the entire event. They will be coordinators. We would still like more people to be on the coordinating TEAM. They will bring job descriptions and a strategic plan to the next Garden Door Meeting.

Members Walk at Annual Picnic – A discussion will be held at The Garden Door meeting regarding having a walk at the picnic to attempt to name unknown plants.

Christmas Party Committee – Coggin will be holding a SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING December 3rd to plan the Christmas Party.

Outreach Project Form – Christine has developed a form for people requesting help from the DCMGA volunteers. Any request must have educational value and a Master Gardener to be the Project Lead. Motion made and seconded to approve the form and post on our website. Motion carried.

TGND Signs – This will be discussed at the next The Garden Door meeting.

State Association Report – Rod reported that we received a grant for the Youth Program. Vendor tables will be available for the next conference. Dates for 2014 conference are March 28 & 29, to be held in Appleton; a donation will be requested. The 2015 conference will be held in La Crosse on July 31 and August 1. The 2016 conference will be in the Midwest (4 states), with the date and location to be determined.

Committee Reports:

Education – The grid for the 2014 Education programs has been set. We will have excellent presenters and tours.

Training – All people interested in becoming Master Gardeners must apply by November 27th. To date we have 18 new members.

The Garden Door – Barb Ottum has placed a new statue in the rock garden. Tim will take a picture for the newsletter.

Announcements:

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 13th at the Sevastopol Town Hall.
The next Board meeting will be January 15.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!
Check dcmga.org Website for Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks to all DCMG's who participate in events throughout the year, from the spring planting, tending and sale, the Open House and Taste of the Garden Door events, all of our educational events that inspire and educate gardeners, and for providing the social culture to our events. Everyone who volunteers helps make our organization and community better. Please check notices in our website for information on current volunteer opportunities.





The Garden Door

Garden Door Notes

By Vicki Dirst

The Garden Door Committee Meeting, November 11, 2013

Present: Tim Kazmierczak (chair), Vicki Dirst, Allen Miller, Chriss Daubner, Jo Ann Tarczewski, Jim McFarlin, Kerry and Kathie Vavra, Jane and Tom Luebker, Kay Corcoran, Wendy Woldt, Jan Gigstead, DD Knutson, Jim Baxter, Barbara and Doug Henderson, Bonnie Rankin, Barb and Dick Allmann, Kaylynn Peterson, Jim Friedrichs, Patty Medeiros, Christine Gritzmacher, Deb Javurek, and Carol Berglund

Call to order: Kathie called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Tim was elected chair.

Long Range Planning: Kathie said we need to establish a long range planning committee for The Garden Door. After discussion a motion was approved to have this be a subcommittee that will report to the larger Garden Door committee. Tim agreed to lead the subcommittee. A paper was passed around for people to sign up.

Garden Door Committee: Kathie handed Tim a list of Garden Door area supervisors. Other members are also welcome to be part of the committee.

Rolling Five Year Contract: Tim asked if the DCMGA has a rolling five year contract with the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station and the UW-Extension. Barb A. said that a couple of years ago Matt Staziak had suggested there be such a contract. Kathie said Matt plans to work on it this winter. Tim said an annual or biennial contract may be more workable than a five year one. Allen said we need to look at our existing contract and review obligations. Kathie passed around her only copy. Chriss said some changes were made when Matt came in, but no written contract resulted. Barb A. said this took the form of a verbal agreement.

Color Theme: Tim asked for suggestions for a color theme for next year. This only affects the two annual beds, and even then the color scheme is optional. People agreed to a theme of blue, silver and yellow.

Ten Year Anniversary: Next year will be the ten year anniversary of The Garden Door. People discussed what we might do at the Open House to commemorate this anniversary. Kathie suggested dedicating a new tuned wind chime in the tunnel, a project Wendy is working to implement. This could represent "ringing in a new year." Allen said the open house committee wants to stay with our main concept of providing educational programs, but is open to suggestions for new components.

Taste of the Garden Door: Doug initiated discussion regarding the future of this event. So far no-one has stepped up to lead the Taste. Barbara and Doug would be willing to be coordinators with others being sub-coordinators. Some are already on task (e.g. Vicki Dirst for "rabbit patch," Tom Luebker for parking, Helen Bacon for salads, Char Rowe for pestos), but five to ten more sub-coordinators would be needed. People agreed that this is a good way of handling this very large event. Doug and Barbara will prepare a list of jobs needing committed leaders. The date for the Taste is Sept. 6th next year. Jim M. said we need to have no parking between the classroom and barn to facilitate tractor tours. There was some discussion about having a squad car to direct traffic for this event or the plant sale. Doug recommended that the matter of traffic for the three main events be taken out of our committee and taken to the Board for responsibility.

The Garden Door Committee Meeting *(continued)*

Labeling of Plants in the Garden: Tim said visitors often ask him to identify plants and many are not labeled. Barbara said often the information has not been passed on to new area coordinators. Kaylynn said the biggest need is for the trees and shrubs. Patty volunteered to paint labels to hang on trees. Tim suggested having a CAD drawing. Vicki and Wendy said part of the difficulty in providing labels is that area supervisors do not know the names of the cultivars, and it is expected that this be included on the labels. Jim B. talked about the need to re-label the grasses.

Portable PA System: Barbara and Doug suggested we purchase a public address system to use at the Open House and Taste. Wendy described the cost of her small system, so this could be expensive. Tim thought it was a good idea to look into this. Wendy will do so.

Purchase Pop-up Tents: Barbara and Doug said we spent funds in tent rental fees for the Taste. They recommend we buy pop-up tents to use for the Plant Sale, Open House and Taste. We're not sure on prices and how much we might want to spend. Kathie said we may need a grant for this. Tent stakes in paths threaten the irrigation system and people's safety. We accepted Gary Kemp's offer to research the subject.

Cover for Tractor Wagon: As part of our ongoing effort to have a mutually supportive relationship with the Research Station, Tim proposed purchasing a cover for the tractor wagon that is used to transport visitors on tours. Doug voiced support. Since the trailer is stored outside, the top would have to be removable for storage. People suggested possible sources. Tim will research this.

Pavers Status: Kaylynn said she hasn't done anything with the grant because the paver issue has been so contentious. Also, she really wants the shade garden included. Jim said in our last meeting we already approved Phase I as long as we get a grant. Kaylynn, Barbara, Doug, and Jim will work together to write up the grant proposal. Tim asked how the initial proposal and the decision to proceed happened so fast, and he questioned whether it is really worthwhile to spend this much money on pavers. Jim said the decision has already been made. Doug said we should continue with the process. Christine questioned the pro-paver argument that we could remove the pavers and take them elsewhere if we lose the use of the garden at some future date.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be January 13th.

On November 26th, the grant application was submitted to the Raibrook Foundation for assistance with Phase I of the paver project in The Garden Door. Many thanks to Jim McFarlin, Kaylynn Peterson, Chris Daubner, and Barb and Doug Henderson for all their efforts on this project.

Watch your e-mails for updates on the status of this project.

Education Committee Report**The Door County Master Gardeners Education Program**

The holiday season is upon us, and the Education Committee is proud to announce its program for 2014. If you enjoy visiting the Green Bay Botanical Garden; keeping up with the latest new hybrids; growing and maybe eating mushrooms; nursing ferns, dahlias, and intersectional peonies; finding tools that make your garden work easier; attracting butterflies to your yard; or designing your gardens and lawns, this new season of programs is for you!

January 14

We begin the year with a program by Susan Garot, Executive Director of the Green Bay Botanical Garden who will give us an overview of the institution, its past, present, and future. Later in the year we will drive to Green Bay to see the garden itself and learn about the work required to maintain the garden from the staff including their Director of Horticulture, Mark Konlock. For those of us who put lots of time and effort into our Garden Door, the two programs should be very informative and relate directly to the work we do in Sturgeon Bay.

January 21

Kori Zawojski of Sunnypoint Gardens returns to tell us about the latest and greatest for 2014. Her popular program should be a hit again this year and you won't want to miss it.

February 11

The Peshtigo, WI firm of Field and Forest will join us to introduce us to the world of home-grown mushrooms. Through them, gardeners have access to high-quality certified organic spawn, tools, technical information, and good advice. We haven't offered a program on mushroom growing, so this should be a new experience for many of us.

February 18

Gary Fewles is well-known to naturalists in the Door County community, and we are looking forward to his program on ferns. Gary is based at the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity at UW-Green Bay where he serves as Herbarium Curator, Cofrin Arboretum Botanist, as a member of the UW academic staff, and as a consulting botanist. His interests include endangered plants, native plant communities, invasive species, wetland communities and Wisconsin's vascular plants in general.

February 25

Professional Landscape Design will be the topic when Greg Meissner of Meissner Landscape Inc. joins us to talk about the process of developing a yard and garden with the help of a professional designer and firm. This highly successful firm will offer us considerable insight into the process with photos that show what can be accomplished when careful planning precedes planting.

March 4

This presentation by our own Vicki Dirst should get you excited about dahlias. You may not know that Vicki has considerable expertise with the flowers, especially heirloom dahlias, and can tell us a great deal about their history and development. After hearing her, you will know something about "Catherine Becker" and "Wisconsin Red."

Paired with Vicki is a presentation by Jim Baxter who participated in the mini-seminars at last year's Garden Door Open House. Jim's short program on garden tools was very popular, so we're pleased to have him make the presentation again as we prepare for the new season. Having the right tool makes a job easier, so pragmatic information about tools is essential for the home gardener.

March 18

Sharon Morrisey a Consumer Horticulture Agent from UW Extension of Milwaukee County will present a program called, "Your Lawn: Organic, Conventional, or In-between." Lawn care has been a hot topic in Door County, and we'll offer some more information that should help you plan to care for the lawn you choose to have at home. Sharon is well-known in the Milwaukee area, sharing gardening and home horticultural information through various media outlets including, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel "Monthly Gardening Calendar," "Gus' Green Thumb Garden" on FOX6 with Gus Gnorski, and the "Yard & Garden Show" on WISN (11:30AM) where she is a co-host. She is a frequent guest on "Garden Talk" with Larry Meiller on WPR, and serves as Master Gardener Volunteer Program Advisor and Coordinator for the Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners. Her areas of specialization include woody landscape plants, landscape design, invasive plant species and vegetable gardening.

April 8

Chriss Daubner will start off April with a presentation on Butterfly Gardens. Not only do these gardens bring joy to those of us who delight in enticing butterflies to our yards, but they contribute to the overall health of the butterfly community. 2013 was a tough year for these beautiful little critters, so creating a space for them in which they can flourish is a good thing to do. Chriss will talk about plant selection and care so that your garden can be a successful magnet for butterflies.

April 15 and 22

Last year, Tom Luebker presented a popular program on starting a vegetable garden. It was very well attended and very well reviewed by participants, so he's agreed to offer two more programs this spring focusing on landscape design and plant selection. His "Landscape Design 101" and "Choosing Plants Wisely" will be full of highly informational and practical suggestions for developing your yard.

We are thrilled this year to showcase local Master Gardeners, Tom Luebker, Chriss Daubner, Vicki Dirst and Jim Baxter along with Sarah Freyman and Coggin Heeringa, all of whom are presenters during the 2014 Educational Program season.

April 29

The Hoard Historical Museum in Fort Atkinson, WI houses the Anderson Intersectional Peony Garden containing some of the most delightful and rare peonies in existence. Sue Zimmerman who knows this garden inside and out comes to us at the end of April through Lee Somerville to introduce us to the world of intersectional peonies. This is a special treat that you should plan to attend. You will never look at a peony in the same way again.

August 24

Next summer we will be traveling again. One trip will be the visit to the Green Bay Botanical Garden and the other is to Solaris Farms where we will have a chance to talk with Nate Bremer, its owner. After Sue Zimmerman's presentation, you will certainly be charged up about peonies and probably lilies and daylilies, too. So a visit to Solaris will give you a chance to satisfy your need to add hardy peonies, lilies and daylilies to your garden. Check out the Farm at: www.solarisfarms.com

The Educational Program for this year is well-rounded and interesting, so we hope to see you at each and every event.

- January 14: This is the Green Bay Botanical Garden
- January 15: Botany and Entomology for the Training Class and Master Gardeners
- January 21: What's New for 2014
- February 11: Mushroom Gardening
- February 18: The Ferns of Wisconsin
- February 25: Professional Landscape Design
- March 4: Dahlias and Tools
- March 18: Your Lawn: Organic, Conventional, and In-between.
- April 8: Butterfly Gardens
- April 15: Landscape Design 101
- April 22: Choosing Plants Wisely
- April 29: Intersectional Peonies
- August 24: Solaris Farms Field Trip
- August TBA: Green Bay Botanical Garden Field Trip

The next Education Committee meeting will be on December 3, 5:30 pm, at the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station (classroom). All are welcome.

**Door County Master Gardeners Association Annual Meeting
October 17, 2013, Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club**

Members present: Carol Berglund, Marne Kaeske, Mike Van Ess, Jan Gigstead, Jim McFarlin, Carl Scholz, Allen Miller, Vicki Dirst, Bart Sheard, Chriss Daubner, Rod Bohn, Jim Baxter, Deborah Javurek, Kathie Vavra, Kerry Vavra, Earlene Lutzke, Sandie Ott, Sarah Freyman, Bill Freyman, Lynn Polacek, Christine Gritzmacher, Jean Ehmke, Lee Somerville, Tim Kazmeirczak, Barb Allmann, Dick Allmann, Jo Ann Tarczewski, Bonnie Rankin, DD Knutson, Holly Green, Wendy Woldt, Paul Pinkston, Dora Leonardson, Sue May

Also present: 14 spouses and other guests

President Kathie Vavra called the meeting to order at 5:56 pm. The minutes from last year's annual meeting were approved. Martha gave the treasurer's report, noting that at the end of the fiscal year (9/30/13) our assets had increased over the previous year. She reported the profit from the plant sale. The treasurer's report was approved. Martha reminded members to submit their dues prior to January 1, and she also asked people seeking expense reimbursements to submit receipts and the expense form to the committee chairperson for approval. Next the annual budget was approved. Dick Allmann conducted the annual audit and reported that everything was fine. The membership voted to leave annual dues at \$12.

Kathie summarized the DCMGA's accomplishments for the past year. Visitation to The Garden Door showed a strong increase, with many bus groups, organized tours, and regular visitors arriving by car. Currently TripAdvisor lists TGD as the number two attraction in Sturgeon Bay. The plant sale had record profits. There were over 200 visitors at the Open House and over 600 at the Taste of the Garden Door. The Education Committee hosted two programs a month from January through April. Program attendance, which totaled 448, ranged from 30 people during a snowstorm to 92 at a program in March.

We have a strong mutually beneficial relationship with the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station. We use their buildings, electricity and water. Matt Staziak praised our organization at a state research station meeting. Matt has been turning our compost into black gold. We now have Wi-Fi in the classroom and are buying new tables.

Our training committee held classes from January through May. We had 24 students join our ranks. They worked in the greenhouse, designed and planted the two annual beds, and helped with the Plant Sale, Open House, Taste of the Garden Door, and Youth Program.

The youth program changed schools, enabling a better quality experience for the 58 kids we served. They grew bumper crops of potatoes, carrots, beans, onions, squash and turnips. They greatly appreciated the nightcrawler races, potato class, cornbread, herbal wraps, tractor ride and apple press.

We added a new social event this year, the Meet and Greet, which introduced the new class to the current members. The annual picnic was a great success. We enjoyed spending four Sunday afternoons touring the gardens of most new members plus selected other members' gardens. We kept the koi in the pond over the winter using a heater and an aerator.

Kathie thanked all those who contributed to these efforts and urged us to make 2014 even bigger and better by volunteering.

DCMGA Annual Meeting (continued from page 8)

Next came some statistics and awards:

DCMGA volunteer hours in 2013 = 7,773 (totaling 82,907 since the organization began in 1996)

Volunteer milestones: 10 years – Mary Gehm and DD Knutson; 150 hours – Gary Farber, Coggin Heeringa, Pauline Leist, Sherry Mutchler, Bart Sheard; 250 hours – Dick Allmann, Sally Everhardus, Jan Gigstead, Tom Luebker, Lynn Polacek; 500 hours – Sarah Freyman, Christine Gritzmacher, Allen Miller, Lee Somerville, Kerry Vavra, Wendy Woldt; 750 hours – Vicki Dirst, Jean Ehmke, Gary Kemp, Michelle Kemp, Sandi Ott; 2,500 hours – Chriss Daubner

Those with volunteer hours over 1,000: Carol Berglund 1,847, Rod Bohn 1,108, Barb Henderson 3,972, Doug Henderson 3,992, Brian Holtz 1,969, Lori Holtz 1,969, John Kierstyn 1,144, Karen Kierstyn 1,063, Larry Maas 1,290, Jim McFarlin 1,647, Kaylynn Peterson 2,164, Char Rowe 1,667, Jo Ann Tarczewski 1,607, Mike Van Ess 1,441, Kathie Vavra 1,752

Sarah Freyman named those who have reached education milestones: Jo Ann Tarczewski, Jean Ehmke, Donna Asher, Marlene Poultan, Shirley Ziman, Jim McFarlin, Deborah Javurek, Holly Green, Phil Block, Jim Baxter, Mona Barden

Jim McFarlin gave a presentation on a proposal for paving the paths at The Garden Door.

Kathie thanked retiring board members Carol Berglund, Michelle Kemp, Barb Allmann and Tom Luebker. Board members eligible for another term are Martha Burris and Bill Freyman. The nominating committee recommended Bonnie Rankin, Christine Gritzmacher, Tim Kazmierczak, Jim Baxter, and Mike Van Ess. There were no nominations from the floor. Sandie Ott moved to elect the full slate (continuing and nominees) by voice vote rather than paper ballot. The motion carried and in a separate vote the full slate was elected to the board.

After dinner Allen Miller gave the following awards:

The Garden Door – Jo Ann Tarczewski, Kathy Green, Dick and Barb Allmann

Outstanding Service – Carl Scholz, Rod Bohn, and Carol Berglund

Above and Beyond – Kathie Vavra (with over 500 volunteer hours this year alone)

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.



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Some of the many MGs recognized for achieving volunteer hours milestone included: (1) Chriss Daubner for 2,500 hours; (2) Jean Ehmke, Sandy Ott and Vicki Dirst for 750 hours; (3) Wendy Woldt, Lee Somerville, Kerry Vavra, Allen Miller, Chris Gritzmacher and Sarah Freyman for 500 hours; and (4) Jan Gigstead, Dick Allmann and Lynn Polacek for 250 hours. MGs recognized for achieving educational milestones included (5) Jim Baxter, Deborah Javurek, Jean Ehmke and Jim McFarlin.

2013 Awards by Vicki Dirst and Allen Miller

Seven special awards were given at the annual meeting. The "Above and Beyond" award went to Kathie Vavra. Kathie joined our organization in 2008. She is entering her third year as president and her fourth year on the board. The official tally lists her as having 1,752 volunteer hours, over 500 of them from this year alone. She initiated the youth program in 2008 and has been the driving force for this program ever since, writing grant proposals to support it, working with the schools, scheduling volunteers to help with the two annual events, and personally tending the youth garden through the growing season. Kathie is a hands-on leader who is directly involved in all Master Gardener activities. She leads board meetings, attends most committee meetings, handles numerous requests from outside organizations and individuals, and works on promoting the DCMGA through our newsletter, our website, video, radio, newspapers, and signs. She is a liaison to the UW-Extension and Research Station. She works on the plant sale, training for the new students, and social events such as the annual picnic, banquet, and "meet and greet." Truly her work on behalf of our organization goes "Above and Beyond" being a Master Gardener Volunteer.

Those receiving "Outstanding Service" awards were recognized for their long-term service to our organization. Carl Scholz has served for 18 years. He has led many educational hikes and has been a leader in stewardship of the environment. Rod Bohn has 16 years of service, and has accumulated 1,108 volunteer hours. He plays a major role in working with the training class, has served as our state representative (or alternate) for 12 years, and has regularly attended Board meetings for six years. Carol Berglund was one of the founding members of our organization, and has 19 years of service. She has 1,847 volunteer hours, and has served on the board for 11 years. She works on The Garden Door and the annual banquet.

The 2013 Garden Door awards go to Dick and Barb Allmann, Jo Ann Tarczewski, and Kathy Green. The Allmanns have co-chaired The Garden Door for the past three years. They have shown leadership in this capacity, working with Research Station staff and area supervisors, and helping to maintain not only the entry garden but also other areas as needed. Jo Ann Tarczewski preceded the Allmanns in the chairmanship. She has been instrumental in creating the fairy garden and troll knoll/toad abode that are so popular with children and their parents. She has 1,607 volunteer hours and 9 years of service. Kathy Green has 846 volunteer hours and seven years of service. She maintains the edible herb garden and is an important contributor to the esthetic appeal of The Garden Door.

The Awards Committee was formed in 2012. Current members are Allen Miller, Chriss Daubner, Rod Bohn, Kathie Vavra and Jan Ziemann. Any member is welcome to recommend someone for formal recognition. This year, lacking any such recommendations, the committee decided to give awards to some members for their hard work in the past. Before next



Kathie Vavra (above left) and her "Above and Beyond" award (right).

"Outstanding Service" awardees (left to right): Carol Berglund, Carl Scholz, and Rod Bohn.



The Garden Door awardees (left to right): Jo Ann Tarczewski, Kathy Green, Barb Allmann and Dick Allmann.

Annual Report for 2013, by Kathie Vavra (edited)

We began 2013 with 97 members on the roster, 83 of them certified Master Gardeners. There were 24 new members in this year's training class. A total of 106 members submitted hours for 2014 certification: 7,202 service hours and 2,602 education hours. Service hours included 243 for youth education and 173 for community education. Major accomplishments involved The Garden Door, special events, the training class, adult educational programs, youth program and annual plant sale. In many ways, we rely on our partnership with the UW-Extension Peninsular Agricultural Research Station. They provide land for our garden, a classroom for meetings and training class, and a greenhouse where we grow annuals for our plant sale. We are also grateful for our partnership with Crossroads at Big Creek, an environmental education facility that is the venue for most of our educational programs.

The Garden Door (TGD) is our organization's free public garden, open every day from dawn to dusk. Located on the grounds of the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station, this two acre garden includes: a kaleidoscope, koi pond, rose garden, shade garden, meditation tunnel, edible herb garden, human sundial, raised beds, rock garden, ornamental grasses, butterfly garden, fairy garden, perennial and annual beds, cactus bed, and a pergola and gazebo. This year we added two tables and four benches in the pergola, which have become a popular spot for visitors to have lunch or simply rest and appreciate the garden. We always try new plants and are pleased to have successfully grown artichokes this year, stimulating many questions and comments. Visits to TGD increased dramatically, thanks in part to social media. Trip Advisor ranked TGD as the second most popular attraction in the Sturgeon Bay area in 2013. In addition to a steady flow of visitors who arrive on their own, we hosted eight tour bus groups and seven scheduled groups, such as Master Gardeners from other organizations.

Adjoining The Garden Door we have a community garden named **The Garden Next Door**, which has twenty-one 20'x20' plots. Six plots are planted by third graders each spring and harvested in fall by the students as fourth graders. In other plots DCMGA members plant vegetables and flowers, educating visitors on a variety of crops and gardening techniques. All growers donate a portion of their harvest to a local food pantry. One plot was used to grow a giant pumpkin that we gave to the Pumpkin Patch Committee for an Egg Harbor community event. We had a faucet installed to help water part of the garden that includes the holding area for plants reserved for the plant sale.

Special Events: Our annual Open House in July drew over 200 visitors. We offered mini-classes on containers, ponds, cactus gardens, photography, herbs, gardening tools, attracting butterflies, and ornamental shrubs. In September, The Taste of the Garden Door attracted more than 600 guests, making parking a challenge. The Pesto Festo, which is part of the Taste event, had a record number of entries. Numerous local businesses sponsored the Taste event. Other events for members and spouses included the annual banquet, holiday party, Meet and Greet gathering to socialize with the new training class, and our annual picnic in TGD.

Training Class: We added five new members to the training committee and redesigned the class to accommodate 24 students in 2013. Each week experts gave presentations to the whole group and then committee members led smaller group discussions of assigned readings. The smaller groups changed weekly to help people to get to know everyone. To enhance future training we added a Wi-Fi modem and purchased six new tables for the classroom. In the summer, new members planted and maintained the annual beds in TGD (their class project), helped with many of our events, and hosted a series of tours of their own gardens. Gardens of a few longer-term members were also included in some tours. The tours helped foster group camaraderie.

Education Programs: Last winter and early spring the Education Committee hosted two public programs per month at Crossroads at Big Creek. The most popular one had 92 guests. In July, thirty of us toured the amazing "West of the Lake Garden" (Manitowoc), accompanied by the head gardener. At the end of the formal tour he took us to the back area to view the greenhouses and the hot compost piles.

Youth Program: To make the program more manageable and enriching, we redesigned it to serve a smaller group of students. A total of 59 third/fourth grade students planted the beds in June and harvested them in October. They filled their new cloth bags with potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips and other produce (photos at dcmga.org). They were absolutely delighted to take food home for their families. Many students said it was the best field trip they had ever been on! We used a grant from the WIMGA to fund this program.

Plant Sale: The annual 2013 Plant Sale had record sales and profits from it fund TGD and all of our educational activities. It requires considerable effort by our members: ordering seeds and perennials, growing annuals in the greenhouse, potting donated perennials, preparing signs and lists, advertising, and working at the sale.

Other Activities: The DCMGA was involved in eight major community projects. Outreach projects included a heritage garden at Crossroads at Big Creek, two separate DIRT library programs which were repeated throughout the county, maintenance of planter barrels in Ellison Bay, enhancement of gardens at the Noble House in Fish Creek, and planters at several county buildings in the Sturgeon Bay area. DCMGA also maintains a publicly accessible web site (www/dcmga.org) that includes a calendar of activities, newsletters and photographs of events.

One of our prime objectives is to have fun while "playing in the dirt" together. Our members have been rejuvenated by the enthusiasm of our latest class, and thanks to them, our projects have been BIGGER AND BETTER than ever!

Remember Our Local Sponsors & Donors

As you plan your gift giving this year, please consider items and/or gift certificates from the sponsors of the DCMGA Taste of The Garden Door & Pesto Festo VII! And please thank each sponsor for supporting The Taste of The Garden Door this year!

The sponsors are:

Briggsville Gardens – www.briggsvillegardens.com – Gift certificates are available by calling 920-743-1246. Like on Facebook.

Cornucopia Kitchen Corner – 139 North Third Avenue, Sturgeon Bay – www.cornucopiadoorcounty.com – “Everything for the kitchen.” Gifts and gift certificates available. Like on Facebook.

Door County Coffee and Tea Company – 5773 Hwy. 42, Carlsville – www.doorcountycoffee.com – A great selection of gift ideas and specialty coffee available. Like on Facebook.

Edible Door Magazine – www.edibledoor.com – How about a gift subscription? Like on Facebook.

Idle Wild Herbs – www.idlewildherbs.com – Purchase a gift of garlic on line!

Maas Floral and Greenhouse – 3026 County Road S, Sturgeon Bay – 920-743-6518 – www.maasfloralandgreenhouse.com – Stop in or call for fresh flowers, plants and gift certificates. Like on Facebook.

Madison Avenue Wine Shop & Door County Olive Oil Company – 25 South Madison Avenue, Sturgeon Bay – 920-746-0872 – www.dcoliveoil.com – Stop in for gifts of wine, cheese, oils, gift baskets & gift certificates! Like on Facebook.

Steep Creek Farm – 6418 Vignes Road, Sturgeon Bay – 920-743-5527 – www.steepcreekfarm.com – How about a gift of veggies for the 2014 season? Give a membership share to a friend! Like on Facebook.

Sunnypoint Gardens & Gift Shop – 920-868-3646 – www.sunnypointdoorcounty.com – Call to order a gift certificate for the 2014 growing season! Like on Facebook.

And please support the Pesto Festo VII prize donors:

Briggsville Gardens

Greens “n” Grains

Madison Avenue Wine Shop & Door County Olive Oil Company

Spa Verde Green Salon & Spa

Door County Coffee and Tea Company

Janes of Egg Harbor

Wood Orchard

Steep Creek Farm Tour

Approximately 50 DCMGA volunteers recently toured the facilities at Steep Creek Farm, Inc. Steep Creek is one of The Taste of The Garden Door 2013 sponsors and is a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). The group (below, right and left) toured the expansive farm facility and learned “all there is to know” about how a CSA is run from owners Meg and Adam Goettleman (below center). For more information about Steep Creek Farm and how to buy a “share” for the 2014 growing season, check their link on the sponsor page of the dcmga.org web site.





DCMGA Holiday Party on December 13

Our annual holiday party will be held at the Sevastopol Town Hall on Friday evening, December 13th. MG's and their guests are requested to bring a dish to pass (vegetable, side dish, or dessert) and their own beverages. The main course will be provided.

Watch your e-mails for your invitation and further details.

Orchid Quest 2014 in Madison, February 1 and 2

Hold the dates of February 1 and 2 for Orchid Quest 2014, the 27th orchid show sponsored by the Madison Orchid Growers' Guild. It will be held at Exhibition Hall of the Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI. There are huge orchid displays in the exhibit area and thousands of fragrant orchids for sale from vendors. Also: seminars, artwork, painted porcelain, raffle, silent auction and everything you need to take care of your new orchid plants. Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, California, is the keynote speaker. The show is Saturday February 1, 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday February 2, 10 AM to 4 PM. One day entry fee is \$7.00 and two day pass is \$10.00. Children 12 and under are free. For more information, check the website at orchidguild.org.

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December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Ed. Comm. Mtg 5:30 pm, Res Stn	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Social Comm. Mtg, 6:30 pm, Crossroads	11	12	13 Holiday Party 6 PM Sevastopol Town Hall	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

REMINDER: Pay your annual dues by December 15th at the latest to be included in the 2014 roster of DCMG's.

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 TGD Comm Mtg 5:30 pm Res. Stn.	14 Ed. Prgm. 7 pm Crossroads	15 Board Mtg 5:30 pm Res. Stn.	16	17	18
19	20	21 Ed. Prgm. 7 pm Crossroads	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	