

DOOR COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022- Volume 28 - Number 1

A Volunteer Organization of the UW-Cooperative Extension Service



The color of springtime is flowers; the color of winter is in our imagination."

- Terri Guillemets

DCMGA

Board of Directors & Officers

President - Mary Moster Vice President - Shawn Mathys Treasurer - Laura Maloney Secretary - Lee Ann Casper

Board Members

Lee Ann Casper Janet Uteg Susan Morgan Nancy Goldberg

UW-Extension Agent

Position open

MISSION STATEMENT

The Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc., in partnership with UW-Extension, shall strive to make a positive impact on horticulture in our community through education, community outreach, and stewardship of our environment.

President's Message

Just a little belatedly, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year! I'm certainly looking forward to better times for our association in 2022.

In October, we learned of updates UW-Extension is making to the Master Gardener Program. These changes have raised lots of questions and left some of us wondering how to react. I understand if you're confused or frustrated. So, in this message, I'm going to focus the good things that should result from all this change.

First, and maybe most important, we now have much greater flexibility in reporting our volunteer and education hours. While the requirements for certification remain 24 volunteer and 10 continuing education hours each year, it's now possible to report as little as one volunteer and one education hour annually — and still remain active in the program. This should relieve the burden for MGVs who struggled to fulfill the hourly commitments when their life circumstances changed.

Second, we now have increased ability to volunteer where we want in our communities. Extension has eliminated its project approval process and dropped the blanket requirement for criminal background checks and mandated reporter training. Instead, individuals can choose any organization that fits within the broad Master Gardener mission. It's still necessary to provide basic information so that Extension can enter the organizations into the Online Reporting System (ORS). Shawn Mathys is spearheading an effort to bundle existing organizations and assist anyone who needs help with adding a new organization.

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President's Message cont'd.

Third, Extension now recognizes that local associations are independent and can operate without the burden of University policies and procedures. This will have less impact on DCMGA than other associations in the state, as we've operated as a separate legal entity since

shortly after our founding. It confirms the need to chart a course that best serves our members and our community, while still preserving our strong affiliation with the statewide Master Gardener Program.

Our commitment to remain part of the Master Gardener Program brings us back to Extension's requirement that all **MGVs must complete Onboarding Lite before they can start volunteering.** This course, which has been described as a "handbook" for the Master Gardener program, is found on Canvas, UW-Madison's online teaching platform. To access Canvas, you must have a Net ID and password issued by the University. Barbara and Doug Henderson and Sue Kunz have volunteered to assist any member that needs help. Please make a point to get on Canvas and complete Onboarding Lite as soon as possible.

In these cold winter months, it's sometimes hard to remember how much we enjoy the camaraderie and fun of working together and sharing our passion for gardening. Let's get these necessary, but sometimes tedious administrative things completed now, and look forward to some good times in the months ahead.

Thank you for all you do.

Mary



Why am I getting this in the mail?

Typically, the DCMGA newsletter is sent via email to all members. However, printing and mailing this issue, and literally putting it into members' hands, seemed like a nice way to reconnect after almost two years with much less social interaction. There are a lot of important updates to the operation of our association, such as the new levels of participation, that you may have missed in previous emails.

Let us know how you like this version of the newsletter. Would you rather just receive it by email? Do you prefer printed/mailed copies? Any thoughts or suggestions can be sent to mgdceditor@gmail.com.

Thank you for your input - and enjoy this issue!

Notes from the Board of Directors

Here is information from the November 15, 2021 and January 17, 2022 meetings. For the complete minutes, check the Members Only section of the website.

Master Gardener program changes — Be assured, the Board is working to understand the changes in the program and convey that information to the membership. President Mary Moster, Vice President Shawn Mathys, and Sue Kunz had a video conference with Extension to express concerns and ask questions. One issue discussed was the challenge for some members to get on "Canvas" so they can go through Onboarding Lite, a requirement. They also talked about MGVs verifying that the organizations for whom they volunteer meet certain criteria. There is a requirement that the organization has no discriminatory practices. Shawn Mathys is compiling all existing volunteer projects to send to the Extension for placement in the On-Line Recording System. Additional organizations can be added later.

Plant Fair: Nancy Goldberg presented information about this year's Plant Fair, formerly the Plant Sale. See article on page 4 for more details.

The Garden Door: Renovation goals were met in 2021, using \$18,478 of restricted funds. The improvements included paving of three paths, expansion of the parking lot, and the purchase and planting of three trees and three conifer shrubs. There was also major work done in the Entrance, Rose, Shade, Sundial, West Perennial, and Memorial Gardens.





More garden photos submitted by members! On the left, 'Destined to See' (top) and 'Cheese & Wine' daylilies, from Linda Monahan. On the right, a relaxing shade planting with ferns, Japanese forest grass, astilbe and Solomon's seal, from Linda Kohlberg.

Plant Fair 2022

Our biggest fundraiser has a new name, to better reflect its purpose!

Sale dates are **Friday**, **June 3** (**First Pick**) **and Saturday**, **June 4**. Moving the date beyond the Memorial Day weekend has been done to increase the availability of the membership to participate, plus allow time to harden off plants.

The sale event will include education for the public, such as an information table and roving members to answer questions. A Marketplace is planned, like the one held in 2019.



We are still scheduled to begin planting seeds in the PARS Greenhouse in early March. Work ses-

sions will be shorter than in the past; health safety requirements will be in place.

Due to many requests for geraniums, Nancy has already started some on her own.

We will be growing 100 kinds of annuals, 40 to 50 kinds of veggies (an increase), eight per-



ennials, 20 types of vines and 24 herbs. The complete listing will be sent to the membership. Selections will emphasize new and unique varieties.

Seeds from 2020 were tested and still have good germination. Using them will help in the effort to minimize

expenses this year.

Due to a new potato virus, we are restricted from using seeds in the Solanaceae (Nightshade family), notably tomatoes and peppers, at PARS. We will be able to grow these in the Greenhouse at Cross-

roads.

In February, everyone will receive information about the Greenhouse work and the opportunity to sign up.



Notes from The Garden Door

The Committee met via Zoom on January 10, 2022 to continue working on plans for the coming garden season. Some of the topics covered were:

Memorials - It was decided not to include more memorials of chairs, benches etc. in the garden nor to pursue a project, such as pavers for inscribed names. Monetary gifts will be acknowledged with a special card.

Annuals Gardens - They will be taking on a new life and a new name. The two small gardens may be combined. Ideas include planting small shrubs, perhaps natives, or creating a sculpture garden. **The Committee may be asking the membership to submit ideas for the design of the new area.**

Plant signage - Improving the individual plant signage in the gardens is a winter project. It is planned to have a group gather to work on the signs.

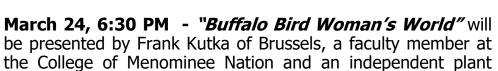


Notes from the Education Committee

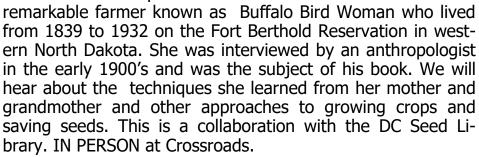
GREAT NEWS!!!

The Committee, under the admirable leadership of Doug and Barbara Henderson, has put together a wonderful line-up of Education programs for the 2022 winter-spring seasons. Several of the programs will be in collaboration with other like-minded Door County groups, a goal for our organization. One such collaboration, with the Climate Change Coalition of Door County, took place on January 13 with "Soil Benefits of Regenerative Agriculture" at the Kress Center. Here are more opportunities:

February 22, 6:30 PM - "Awesome Annuals with Pollinator Potential" with Mark Dwyer. Plants in our gardens that support local pollinators are becoming more essential! Mark will share a wide range of seasonal plants for the bed, border and container. These will augment the "pollinator-friendly" perennials, trees and shrubs on the market. Mark owns Landscape Prescriptions by MD, a landscape design and consulting business in Janesville, and manages a three-acre healing garden at a hospital. He was the Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens for 21 years. We welcome him back! Zoom at home or group Zoom at Crossroads, live.



breeder. He will speak about a





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Education Programs cont'd.

April 5, 6:30 PM - "Door County Wildflowers, Weeds and Seeds" is presented by well-known, well-loved local

naturalist Charlotte Lukes. She will include descriptions and beautiful photos of wildflowers throughout the seasons, along with common plants that produce showy berries or seeds in autumn. IN PERSON at Crossroads.

April 26, 6:30 PM - "Invasive Jumping Worms: the Impact of a New Soil Invader" will tell us more about a new non-native invasive species in Wisconsin and the Midwest. Many of us have made the acquaintance of this unwanted species. Brad Herrick, Ecologist and Research Program Manager at the UW-Madison Arboretum, has a special interest in the worms. He will talk about the harmful potential impacts of the jumping worm to forests and gardens and offer hope with potential control options. A UW-Madison "Badger Talk" IN PERSON at Crossroads.

May 3, 6:30 PM - "Prairie Plants for Urban and Suburban Gardens." Neil Diboll, internationally known expert in native plant ecology, is an enthusiastic, highly knowledgeable and committed promoter of native plants. A pioneer in the na-



tive plant industry, he is President and CEO of Prairie Nursery in Westfield, Wisconsin. The essence of his philosophy is that we as stewards of the planet must work to preserve and increase the diversity of native plants and animals with which we share the world. Presented in collaboration with Wild Ones, Door Peninsula Chapter. Zoom at home or group Zoom at Crossroads, live.



In Process or In the Wings...

- Plant Fair preview by Nancy Goldberg in May
- Mighty Wings Monarchs with Deb Clement, outdoors in July or August
- Tour of PARS Research Station in early summer for Master Gardeners
- Possible half day seminar on habitat restoration at Crossroads
- DC Invasive Species Team presentation by Samantha Koyen
- Composting/Soil Health with Jamie Patton
- Presentation on Insects through UW-Madison Badger Talks, in fall

New MG Participation Levels

There are different designations that we use to help explain the level of participation you have in the Master Gardener program. The hours you report into the Online Reporting System by December 31 of each year determines your status for the following year. Here are the different participation levels associated with the program.

Participation Level	Criteria	Notes
Certified	You report BOTH a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service and a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	 You are active in the program and contribute the minimum # of hours in both volunteer service and continuing education. You are Certified the following year. You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.) You are eligible for awards and recognition (TBD)*
Active	You report less than the minimum hours of volunteer service (24) or continuing education (10), and report at least 1 hour of volunteer service and 1 hour of continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	 You are Active in the program, contributing less than the minimum # of hours in both volunteer service (24) and continuing education (10), but reporting a minimum of 1 hour in each. You are uncertified for the following year. You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.) You may not be eligible for some awards (TBD)*.
Inactive	You report less than 1 hour in either volunteer service or continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline. You agree to terms and conditions.**	 You are Inactive for the following year. You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.) You are ineligible for awards and recognition. Individuals completing Onboarding will enter the program with this participation level.

Participation Level	Criteria	Notes
Deactivated	You report two consecutive years of less than 1 hour in either volunteer service or continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline.	 Beginning of year 3, you are removed from the Extension Master Gardener Program. You are removed from the email list and your ORS & Canvas account is deactivated. You are no longer affiliated with the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program and may not use the term "Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener." You may re-apply for admission according to the policy.
Honored	You complete 10 years* OR 1000 hours of service to the Extension Master Gardener Program in Wisconsin as recorded into the ORS AND list significant accomplishments to the local or statewide program. This should include leadership, contributions to projects, or support to other volunteers and Extension staff. You agree to terms and conditions.**	 You complete the application. (Applications will be accepted only from November 1 through December 31, with decisions awarded before March 31.) Criteria is subject to change in the future.

- * Contingent on new awards and recognition system.
- ** Terms and conditions include the Code of Ethics. The Master Gardener Program reserves the right to update these as necessary.

This photo was shared by Kris Lewis, with this description: "Last year, again, grubs wreaked havoc on my lawn. Rather than repair with grass seed, I decided to sow a wildflower seed mix consisting of perennials and annuals. I was thrilled and amazed with the results in late spring - A wonderful attraction for butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds that has continued through the summer and into fall."



More Member Garden Photos

Here are a few more of the many wonderful photos submitted last fall by MGVs.



Jan Ziemann reported that this Yucca was over 6 feet tall!



This unique and beautiful planter was put together by Lynn Polacek. The container is an upside-down cedar stump!



A lovely Fernleaf Peony, submitted by Dora Leonardson.



While Borage is usually considered to be an herb, it also has gorgeous blue flowers - and they're edible! Photo taken at the Crossroads Heritage Garden by Penne Wilson.

Canvas and Onboarding Lite: What You Need to Know

What is Canvas? For our purposes, it can be called a Life-Long Learning Classroom on-line. It is where UW-Madison Extension is placing all their educational material for Master Gardeners. On Canvas are learning opportunities like Plants Plus, past issues of the Volunteer Vibe, courses for further education, and more. Most importantly right now, Canvas is the location of Onboarding Lite, which is a new educational requirement we must fulfill!

What is Onboarding Lite?

You could call it the Master Gardener "Handbook." It has all the information you need to know about being a Master Gardener Volunteer. It is very important information, much of it **NEW**, so it has been decided that all of us need to complete Onboarding Lite before we are officially enrolled this year.

Onboarding Lite has short readings and short quizzes. Some of the quizzes require 100 percent, but never fear, you may do them again, right away. Based on experience, On-boarding may take from one and a half to two+ hours to do. But you may record five generous Education Credits for doing it!

Why is Onboarding Lite Extra Important?

Onboarding is a **requirement** for all who aspire to begin or continue as MGVs!! You will not be able to volunteer and record hours until you do it. Some of you have already met this requirement. Encourage others! We **must** all complete this if we want to be part of the great experiences this year is sure to bring. (Students who have just finished the Foundations in Horticulture course on-line will be doing a version known simply as Onboarding; returning MGVs do Onboarding Lite.)

Are You on Canvas? If not, you are not alone. You must be able to go on Canvas to complete Onboarding Lite. So, getting on Canvas is the first step in securing your Master Gardener status. To do it, you will need an activated **NetID**. The UW is giving each MGV a NetID, a username just for Canvas.

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NEWS FLASH! Another opportunity to get your NetID just arrived in the January 20 Volunteer Vibe newsletter. Below is the information you'll find by scrolling down through the Vibe. When you click the request, an email should come to your inbox with instructions.

Do you need help getting your NetID for the Canvas Classroom?

Thank you for your patience in getting your NetID to access our Canvas Classroom.

If you have not yet activated your netID for our Canvas classroom, please use the button below, to start the process.

If that doesn't resend your netID email, please let us know at wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu and we can troubleshoot the problem.

We also made a tip sheet to help you with most questions about logging into the ORS and Canvas.

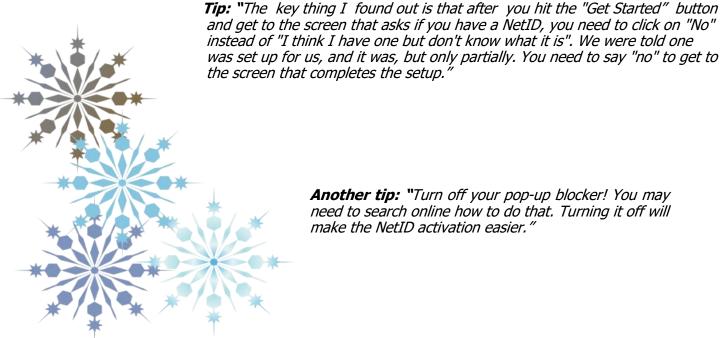
Request NetID

If at any point, you need help, you can do the following:

Email for help: help@doit.wisc.edu

OR Phone: 1-888-435-7589, 7 days a week from 7 AM to 10 PM. Do not hesitate to phone. They will help you!

VERY IMPORTANT: You must say you are a Lifelong Learner (L3) so they don't mistake you as a student on campus.



and get to the screen that asks if you have a NetID, you need to click on "No" instead of "I think I have one but don't know what it is". We were told one was set up for us, and it was, but only partially. You need to say "no" to get to the screen that completes the setup."

> Another tip: "Turn off your pop-up blocker! You may need to search online how to do that. Turning it off will make the NetID activation easier."

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

As you may

know, the Door County Master Gardeners Association is the fiscal sponsor of the Door County Seed Library. The Seed Library's mission is to seek to cultivate and reclaim seeds as a public resource by:

- Promoting biodiversity through education, seed sharing and seed saving
- Increasing our community's capacity to grow healthy food
- Encouraging pollinator-friendly plants to help sustain and preserve our native environment
- Preserving local seeds and plant history

The Seed Library does this by offering free vegetable, herb, and flower seeds through local library branches and at various community events. Our seeds are donated by commercial seed companies and by gardeners who share their locally-harvested seeds.

We are excited to share details about this year's seed and seedling giveaway programs:

First, let's talk about free seeds! This year, we are excited to announce that we will be opening our seed libraries at all eight Door County Library branches. Another change for this year - instead of getting pre-packaged seed bundles, members will be able to peruse the seed cabinet and select only the seeds that they want to grow, which is a much more efficient process for distributing seeds. Our seed libraries will re-launch on March 21. Stay tuned for more details in our March newsletter, which is sent to all Seed Library members and DCMGA MGVs.

And seedlings! Once again this year, we encourage everyone who has the ability to start seeds indoors to grow some extra seedlings for our community. Indoor seed starting has its challenges and not everyone is set up to start their seeds indoors. We will distribute seedlings informally via our free plant swap stand again this year (i.e., this won't be a specific event), which we will set up around Memorial Day. Every little bit helps, so please consider

growing what you can. If you have the ability to start seeds, please send Penne an email at penne@pobox.com.



Help Stop Invasive Plants From Slipping into Wisconsin by Melinda Myers

For many of us, winter is the start of the gardening season. We are busy browsing catalogs, reading garden articles, and looking for sources of new plants. As the planning process continues, the plant wish list keeps expanding. Once your list is complete and before placing any order online, be sure to check your list for any invasive plants that are prohibited or restricted in Wisconsin.

According to the Invasive Species Rule NR40, prohibited plants are those that are not currently found or occur in isolated areas in the state. If introduced into



the state, these plants are likely to cause significant economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Restricted plants according to NR40 are already established in the state causing harm or have the potential to cause significant harm.

Although regulations for the sale, purchase and possession of invasive species are in place, some online sellers are not aware, up-to-date, or concerned with following existing state and federal regulations. Just because you can purchase a plant does not mean it is allowed in Wisconsin. So, it is up to us, the individual gardener, to protect our gardens, natural spaces, and waterways.

Many of us purchased plants in the past unaware they would eventually become a problem for native plants, wildlife, and beneficial insects when food sources and nesting sites disappear. Many also negatively impact our waterways, recreational use of spaces, and the economy. Now, we are tasked with paying for and personally eliminating the problem. More research and precautions are being taken to manage existing invasive species and reduce the risk of future problems.

As we learn more by observing what is happening in our own and other states, the list of prohibited and restricted plants keeps changing. It is important to visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website and make any needed changes before placing your plant order.



Growing even one or two invasive plants in your garden, shoreline planting or pond can have an impact. Invasive plants tend to be vigorous growers, reproducing faster than our native plants, and more tolerant of adverse conditions. This allows them to quickly spread, take over and cause harm.

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Help Stop Invasive Plants cont'd.

Not only do these invasive plants disrupt the ecosystem; they have a negative impact on our economy, personal budgets, outdoor recreation, and health. In 2001 an estimated 137 billion dollars were spent in the United States to manage the ecological damage and to control inva-

sive species. These costs have continued to increase each year and many of the expenses are passed on to consumers.

It is easy to see the impact of some of the thugs, like Japanese knotweed, that have overrun gardens, landscapes, shorelines and our waterways. New infestations usually occur when soil containing rhizomes of this invasive plant are moved to a new location or washed downstream. Even small root segments only a couple inches long can start a new infestation.

The yellow flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) is an invasive plant masked as an adaptable and beautiful perennial. This beauty seems harmless growing along the shoreline, in the garden or pond. Its ability to spread and vigorous growth habit have made it a threat to our waterways. Seeds or pieces of the rhizome can float away from the planting or be accidentally moved into natural spaces. It quickly adapts to a wide range of growing conditions and forms dense clumps or floating mats that can alter wildlife habitats and the diversity of species.

I have teamed up with the UW-Madison Extension Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Program to help spread the word about aquatic invasive plants. As an influencer in the gardening world, I need your help to reach more gardeners. Many people are not aware of this threat and need our help to make wise plant decisions.

Thanks to all of you who are already spreading the word and actively trying to manage invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants. If you are interested in volunteering or need advice to help control invasive plants, email DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov.

As we work together sharing our passion for gardening and our concern for Wisconsin's natural spaces, lakes, and waterways, we can make a difference.

Melinda Myers is the author of numerous gardening books, including <u>The Garden Book for Wisconsin</u>, <u>Small Space Gardening</u> and <u>The Midwest Gardeners Handbook</u>. She hosts the "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the "Melinda's Garden Moment" TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. She offers free gardening webinars on her website at www.MelindaMyers.com.



Member Garden Spotlight: Susan and Jim Larson, Ellison Bay

We purchased our Ellison Bay woodland home in 2015. The garden had been neglected for several seasons. We started weeding, nurturing the soil and identifying the plantings surrounding the house.

Jim and I joined the Master Gardeners program and graduated with the class of 2017. I have always loved learning about plants and their beautiful mystery. Jim is the digger planter and I choose the plants. We maintain, move and discover design together.

Our home has large low windows and several French doors to view the garden and woodland from the **INSIDE** out.

The garden **OUTSIDE**:

SPRING

The first plants to arrive are tulips that the deer enjoy. The **CINNAMON FERNS** start to rise and line the windows on the north side of the house. **SWEET WOODRUFF**, with its emerald green leaves, is adjacent to the ferns and its fragrant starry white flowers lay a carpet of white.

A soft lavender **MISS KIM LILAC** smells amazing. A pink **WEIGELA** blossoms for months and a white **PEONY** centers a flagstone path that leads to a handmade wooden trellis with a canopy of several climbing **CLEMATIS**.

GIANT WHITE AND PURPLE ALLIUMS start to burst their color in early June. The alliums were the first bulbs we planted in 2015.

Low maintenance **BUGLEWEED** to the right of the **WEIGELA** blossoms with profuse purple spikes of color.

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Member Garden Spotlight cont'd.

SUMMER

Varieties of **ASTILBE**, with shades of pink and deep purple, are planted among the dark green **HOSTAS** and a few coneflowers. The **PINK ASTILBES** plume-like flowers are

about four feet tall and remind me of cotton candy. A flagstone path splays out in several directions with **IRISH MOSS** surrounding the stones.

PLUM PUDDING and other varieties of **CORAL BELLS** add pops of color.

A lovely **ELDERBERRY** is on the right side of our driveway and blends in with the cedar trees. The berries glisten with beauty and are pruned by the deer.

FALL

ASTERS, SEDUM and a tall **COLUMBI-AN AZURE MONKSHOOD** show their blossoms as we start to tuck the garden in for the winter.

We are still identifying and researching the many varieties of **FERNS** and other native species at the back of the property.



Removing invasive garlic mustard, lilies of the valley, and non-native ground cover keeps us busy.

We discovered **jumping worms** in the garden in August of this year. Doug and Barb Henderson were kind to help us learn, test, and purchase special fertilizer to help mitigate this invasive destructive problem.

My first garden book was "PLANTS ARE LIKE PEOPLE" by Jerry Baker, 1972.

I love my plants and my garden friends.



Take "Note" of These Announcements



Your help is needed!

Social Media Coordinator(s) - keep our Facebook page up to date with regular information posts, photos, etc.

Other committee positions are also available. For more information, please contact Shawn Mathys, smmathys56@gmail.com.

The Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo will be held February 11-13. Visit wigardenexpo.com for more details.



Be sure to read the Volunteer Vibe that comes to your email each month. There is information you need to know!

The new online reporting system will open in February. Until then, please keep a record of any volunteer or education hours you earn so that you can enter them later.

2022 DCMGA Commíttee Chairs/Coordinators

Education - Barbara and Doug Henderson Garden Door:

Operations - Hugh Zettel
Financial - Nancy Anschutz
Plants - Sue Kunz
Member Engagement - Sue Kunz
Newsletter Editors - Lee Ann Casper
and Karen Newbern

Plant Fair - Nancy Goldberg Social Media - Sue Kunz (interim) Strategic Planning - Shawn Mathys Sunshine - Holly Green Website and Buzz - Mike VanEss WIMGA Representative - Mary Moster