



Good Earth News

Sandy Manning
sandy@the-mannings.org
Janet Wintersberger
jwintersberger@wi.rr.com
Lisa Kingery
lkingery@mindspring.com
Judy Honeck
whoneck@wi.rr.com

Inside this issue:

MG Program News	2
Volunteer Information	3
Program Information	4
Education Bytes	5
Hort News	6
News from Waukesha County	7
From the President and Spring Shows	8
Education & Events Around the Region	9

Greetings Gardeners!

My sincerest wishes for a Happy New Year! Hope your holidays were merry and bright. The white Christmas was even enjoyed by our plants since it provides such a nice blanket for their beds in winter. Be sure to cover those roses and strawberries if you haven't already and watch for wildlife damage to stems, trunks and branches of trees and shrubs.

Welcome to our new newsletter editors. We once again have a committee. Janet Wintersberger, Lisa Kingery and Judy Honeck. Don't be surprised if you get a call someday for a feature article about your MG project or even about yourself. Remember, everyone is welcome to submit information, announcements and articles. Send them to our editor, MG Sandy Manning at the e-mail address given above.

A great big thank-you is due to our 2005 officers and a warm welcome to those who have agreed to serve in 2006. (See article below.) Their service will be acknowledged along with that of many others at the first annual Volunteer Recognition and Graduation Celebration on February 15th. It is being held at Franklin City Hall and will begin with refreshments at 6:30. Everyone is invited for some shameless back slapping and a liberal helping of kudos. Please RSVP to Ellen Blankenship by February 8th via e-mail or phone (ellen.blankenship@ces.uwex.edu) or (414) 290-2416).

Although our gardens are silent and resting, MGs

are revving up for one of the busiest times of the year. Yup, winter. January, February and March bring General Training (details on page 2) and two of the biggest trade show exhibits we do – the CNI Show in February and the Realtors' Show in March (see Vol. Opps. on page 3.) Preparations are underway for the annual Perennial Plant Sale and "digs" start as soon as the ground thaws. Requests for gardening presentations peak this time of year, too. There are also lots of opportunities to learn through SEWMG programs, trips and tours as well as activities offered by many other plant related groups in the region (see SEWMG Programs on page 4 and Education Around the Region on page 9).

Don't forget to check the SEWMG website often for coming events and volunteer opportunities. The MG Hotline recording, formerly available on InfoSource, will now be part of a message on the MG Vol. Coordinator's phone at (414) 290-2416. To bypass the recording and leave your own message for Ellen Blankenship, simply press "6".

Here's to 2006. May it be healthy and productive for you, yours and your garden.

Sincerely,
Sharon Morrissey

Consumer Horticulture Agent
Milwaukee County UWEX

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on November 30, 2005. Bill Baumgarten announced the slate of officers, there were no further nominations from the floor, the following officers were elected: President: Marcia Zientek; President-Elect: Ed Kraus; Treasurer: Bill Baumgarten; Secretary: Eileen Rudnick; Members at Large: Rita Nagl, John Vanacek and Judy Williamson.

There was lively discussion and announcements about programs and up-coming events, which are in this newsletter.

It was great to see the room filled with so many MGs; it would be wonderful to see it continue.

Following the meeting Gertrud Zoeller showed us how to recycle our Christmas cards. She had card stock, decorative scissors, fancy papers and we brought our used cards. She had samples of redesigned cards using parts of the old cards, bookmarks, gift cards and place cards. As we cut, assembled and glued, it was amazing to see the creative results. Gertrud plans to have more projects in the coming months, so be sure to attend and take advantage of them.

The first annual Volunteer Recognition and Graduation Celebration is on February 15th... Everyone is invited for some shameless back slapping and a liberal helping of kudos... RSVP to Ellen Blankenship by February 8th

MG Program News

From Sharon Morrissey and Ann Wied

Those without Internet access can call for the monthly recorded list of activities and volunteer opportunities. The number has changed since InfoSource is no longer a phone service. Call the MG Volunteer Coordinator's phone at (414)290-2416 and stay on the line to hear the full message.



Annual Reporting

Timesheets received by October 1st were recorded and reported to the State MG Program office. Over 18,000 hours were reported for 2005 – that's 3,000 over last year! You folks are GREAT!

All hours received by December 31st are still eligible for graduation by our local MG program for the February Celebration although they can no longer be reported to the State office. We encourage you to make every effort next year to submit your hours by October 1st so all of your hard work can be counted.

Again this year, MG Arlene Kaufman and MG John Hahn wrote the Annual Accomplishment Report for SEWMGs and submitted it to the State office for inclusion in the State's MG Program Annual Report. Thanks to you both.

For the second year now, our office is busy working with the database to sort the statistics that will appear in our local Annual Report. It will be distributed February 15th at the Volunteer Celebration. It will also be available on our website at that time.

No Failure To Communicate

The Annual SEWMG Directory of names, addresses and phones will be distributed beginning with the Volunteer Celebration on February 15th. It will include all MG Members-in-Good-Standing as well as MGs-in-Training in the General program. It should be current until the same time next year since new MGs will only be able to join during General Training from now on. Come to the office to pick-up a copy if you cannot attend the February Celebration event.

The SEWMG website will always be the best way to keep up with upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Use the link on page 4 to access the SEWMG Calendar, download and print a month at a time. Always check the Events page of the website for details of programs, training opportunities and volunteer activities, links to maps and driving directions and contact persons for further questions.

Watch for SEWMG ListServe announcements, too. There will be a survey sent soon to get your input on how you do and don't want your Listserve used. When the responses are in, a policy will be drafted just so it's clear to us all.

Those without Internet access can call for the monthly recorded list of activities and volunteer opportunities. The number has changed since Info-

Source is no longer a phone service. Call the MG Volunteer Coordinator's phone at (414)290-2416 and stay on the line to hear the full message.

General Training 2006

Effective January, 2006 all new MGs will be required to take the General Training course in order to become certified. Specialty Training in the fall will only be open to returning or repeating MGs. To accommodate as many people as possible, again this year, General Training is being offered in two sections – Monday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 and Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 8:30. New MG Orientation is scheduled for January 16th and 17th. Classes will run for 12 weeks beginning the week of January 23. Registration information is available from the SEWMG website on the Events page. All MGs are welcome to enroll.

Volunteer Agreement

If you haven't already done so for 2006, be sure to obtain, sign and return a Volunteer Agreement to the Milwaukee Co. office. They are available at the office, at SEWMG meetings and programs and on-line at the SEWMG website on the Volunteer Service page.

Activity Reports for 2005

Not just for Core Projects anymore! If in doubt, fill it out! There is no such thing as too much information. We really would like to know as much as possible about ALL of the MGs' activities. The way to do this is for you to submit an Activity Record and Annual Activity Report about what you do. Everything should be reported this way, with the exception of presentations which should be reported to us on a Program Request and Report Form.

State MG Accomplishment Report

Susan Mahr, our state MG Program Coordinator has posted the program Annual Accomplishment Report for 2005. This is the document that reports all of your valuable service hours and continuing education hours which we found you about reporting every year. You can view, download and/ or print a copy at: <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/> in the State Program section of this site. The link to the .pdf file is at the bottom of the page.

Be sure to check out what some of the other 41 MG groups around the state are doing.

Volunteer Opportunities

For a complete list of volunteer opportunities go to: <http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg/volunteeropps.cfm>. To hear a recorded listing or to volunteer call Ellen Blankenship, MG Volunteer Coordinator at (414)290-2416.

(Core hours designated by ♥)

For a complete list of volunteer opportunities go to:
<http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg/volunteeropps.cfm> or call for a recorded listing :

MG Volunteer Coordinator's phone (414)290-2416 .

This is a quiet time of year for most gardeners, but there are many Master Gardeners who are going out and speaking at various organizations. In January there will be talks on "Gardening with Herbs" and "Gardening with Native Plants."♥ February will include "Rain Gardens" and "Edible Landscaping Beyond Vegetable Gardens."♥ March will have "Vegetables"♥, while April will include "Composting", "Butterfly Gardens", "Rain Gardens" again, and "Perennials."♥ May has a return to "Composting", "Rain Gardens" and "Butterfly Gardens."♥ Very busy for the dormant time of year! And the requests are still coming in...

At this time, a speaker is needed on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. to speak on "Planting a Cutting Garden" for the South Milwaukee Garden Club.♥ Please call or e-mail Ellen if you are interested.

In addition to speaking requests, there will be the CNI Show ♥ and the Realtors Show ♥ as a way to volunteer. The CNI Show will be held Feb. 24-26 at the Waukesha Expo. The Realtors Show will be held at State Fair Park Expo from March 24-26 and March 29-April 2.

Havenwoods State Forest 6141 N. Hopkins Street, Milwaukee Winter NatureFest Saturday, February 18, 2006 10:00am – 4:00 pm With a theme of "Mammals: Surviving the Big Chill", there will be indoor and outdoor activities for kids of all ages and families including craft projects, games and snowshoeing (in Milwaukee!). Help needed that day as well as for preparations. As a youth activity, these are all core hours ♥. Please call Havenwoods at (414) 527-0232 and ask for Sue or Judy.

Happy holidays and enjoy winter!

Thank You

Due to knee surgery, I was unable to take care of the Heritage Garden at the Milwaukee County Zoo as I would have liked this year. With the hot days and dry weather, the raised beds of the garden and containers needed water each day. Thanks to Master Gardener volunteers that stopped by the Zoo Heritage Garden and watered it often during the drought season.

The plants grew beautifully with lush greens and blooms full of color. Sunflowers and asters were planted by Master Gardeners Paulette Hardin, Penny Pritzlaff and Mike Flynn. Alison Dulka and

Thomas Kihlsinger planted red sedum in the rock garden. Marilyn Pietrzak and Norma Bader added more hostas under the pine tree. Plants were donated from their own gardens. Also Linda Reynolds planted a female hop plant. We will be careful not to pull it out as a weed. The Heritage Garden is always in need of working hands, and we welcome all volunteers.

Thanks again for all the hard work from all the volunteers while I was recovering.

Maria Susterich MG



Community Kindness

Do you know of a fellow Master Gardener who is ill or deceased, or is bereaved due to the loss of a close family member? We would like you to share that information so that others might send a card or make a phone call. Also, on the death of a SEWMG member or spouse, a donation to the University of Wisconsin-Extension Foundation is made in that

person's name. Bill Baumgarten handles that, but he needs to have that information.

Please call or e-mail Judy Savage with the pertinent information and she will post it on our listserve and notify other MGs. Her phone number is: (414) 529-4183 and bj sav5@netzero is her e-mail address.

SEWMG Calendar of Events

For the SEWMG month-by-month calendar go to: <http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg/newsevents.cfm>. Further details about MG Events including registration information and maps to program locations are provided on the website on the *Events List* page.

Copies of the calendars for the two current months are included with this newsletter for MGs receiving a paper copy by mail. For updates, regularly check the message on the MG Volunteer Coordinator's phone at (414)290-2416.



SEWMG Programs

This is a brief overview of 2006. Remember all programs at the UWEX office are free for everyone. There are charges for trips and conferences. The state conference in March and the Tristate in June are great ways to meet other master gardeners and have fun. All programs, trips and conferences count as Continuing Education Hours.

January

- 18 – 6:30 PM – “Educational Focus for 2006” – Sharon Morrissey.
- 20 – Mid-Am Bus Trip. Letters sent to all who signed up. Waiting list only.
- 25 – 6:30 PM – “Herbs - Industrial and Commercial Uses” – Peggy Zautke, Herb Gardener at Boerner Botanical Gardens.

February

- 15 – 6:30 PM - **Volunteer Recognition and Graduation**, Franklin City Hall; RSVP to Ellen Blankenship by Feb 8th if possible. You and a guest are invited.
- 22 – 9 AM—“New Plant Development” - Mike Yanney, lead propagator at Johnson Nursery.

March

- 15 - 9AM—“Pruning Workshop” – Morrissey/Wied .Location TBA. All MGs welcome. Public \$15.
- 17 – Chicago Flower Show. Letter will be sent to all who signed up. Waiting list only.
- 18—9AM—“Pruning Workshop” – Morrissey/Wied; at Kneeland-Walker Museum, Wauwatosa. All MGs welcome. Public \$15.
- 22 – 9AM—“Pruning Workshop” - Morrissey/Wied. Location TBA. All MGs welcome. Public \$15.
- 24/25 – State Conference, Appleton, Registration <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>
- 29 – 6:30 PM – “Cactus and Succulents” - Dr. Dan Mahr, Dept. of Entomology, UW-Madison.

April

- 19 – 9 AM – “Propagation” – Mike Maddox, Rock Co. UWEX /Rotary Gardens Hort Ed.
- 26 – 6:00 PM (**please note the earlier time**)– Annual MG “Mixer” – Speaker: Heidi Hornung from Shady Lane Nursery – “New Zippy Plants for 2006”.

May

- 17 – 9 AM – Seminar at Jerry Nelson’s Garden; pre-register.
- 20 – 8AM—1:30 PM—Perennial Plant Sale
- 24 – 6:30 PM – “Small Scale Vegetable Gardening” – Sharon Morrissey.
- 31 – 6:30 PM – “Japanese Gardens” – Patti Nagai, Racine Co. UWEX Hort. Educator.

June

- 15/17 – Tri-State MG Conference, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Pre-register.
- 21 – Bus trip - Madison, Olbrich – Contact MG Sharon Roy or Mary Vitrano.
- 28 – Speaker George Radtke ; time & topic TBA.

July

- 19 – 9 AM - Invasive plants/insects
- 26 – 6:30 PM - Tree & Shrub I.D. Walk with Sharon Morrissey at Boerner BG.

August

- 16 – Bus Trip – Father Dom’s Duck Doo plant in Racine.
- 23 – Annual MG Picnic; Eble Park.
- 30 – 6:30 PM – SEW Planning Meeting.

September

- 20 – Bus Trip – Cantigny Gardens and Fermi Lab.
- 27 – Specialty Training begins; ?Topic: “Fruits & Vegetables”; 6 weeks. Pre-register.

October – Specialty Training

November

- 8 - Financial Planning Meeting
- 29 – Annual Meeting

December

- 6 – Holiday Party

This is a brief overview of 2006. Remember all programs held at the UWEX office are free for everyone.

Education Bytes

Evaluate What You Find on the Web

The World Wide Web can be a great place to accomplish research on a wide range of gardening topics. However, putting pages on the Web is easy, cheap, and unregulated, so the burden is on you to establish the validity of what you find. Most pages found in general search engines are self-published or published by businesses with motives to get you to buy something or believe a point of view. Even within university web sites, there can be many pages that the institution does not oversee.

These techniques can help you determine the credibility of information you find on the Web:

1. Use the URL's listed on the search page to determine the Web sites most likely to be reliable:

Is it a personal page? Look for a personal name (e.g., *jbarker*) following a tilde (~), a percent sign (%), or the words "users," "members," or "people." Another clue is sites that use commercial Web page hosts like aol.com or geocities.com.

What is the domain type? educational .edu, nonprofit .org, commercial .com, government .gov. You can also look for a country (e.g. /jp for Japan)

2. Find out the credentials and motives of the organization or author:

Look for links that say "About us," "Background," etc. You can often find this kind of information by truncating the URL.

Instructions: In the top Location Box, delete the end characters of the URL stopping just before each / (leave the slash) and press enter to see if you can see more about the author or the origins of the site providing the page. Continue this process, one slash (/) at a time, until you reach the first single / which is preceded by the domain name portion. This is the page's server or "publisher."

3. Find out how current the information is:

Look for the date "last updated" - usually at the bottom of a web page. Check the date on all the pages on the site.

4. Look for indicators of quality information:

If you see little footnote numbers or links that refer to documentation, take the time to explore them. Also check out all the sites

related links. These links should all be from reputable publications.

The first part of the URL indicates the publisher of the page. Expect a journal or newspaper article to come from the original publisher IF the publication is available on the web. Look at the bottom of such articles for copyright information or permissions to reproduce.

5. Find out what others say:

Look for other web pages that link to this page.

Use www.alexa.com. Paste the url into alexa.com's search box. You will see, traffic rank; subjective reviews; site statistics; ownership information for the domain name; and a link to the Internet archive of website history "Wayback Machine"

Do a **link:** search in Google, Yahoo!, or another search engine where this can be done.

Instructions: for doing a **link:** search in Google or Yahoo!:

- a. Copy the URL of the page you are investigating (Ctrl+C in Windows).
- b. Go to the search engine site, and type **link:** in the search box.
- c. Paste the URL of the investigated site into the search box immediately following **link:** (no space after the colon).

The pages listed all contain one or more links to the page you are looking for. If you find no links, try a shorter portion of the URL, stopping after each /.

Look the page up in a reputable directory that evaluates its contents [Librarians' Index](#), [Infomine](#), [About.com](#), [AcademicInfo](#), are all reliable resources.

Instructions: Go to the directory and search for the title of the site you are investigating. Look for the publisher if you can't find a specific page from a larger site.

Look up the author's name in [Google](#) or Yahoo!

Instructions: in Google: Search the name three ways:

- a. without quotes – **John Doe**
- b. enclosed in quotes as a phrase - "**John Doe**"
- c. enclosed in quotes with * between the first and last name - "**John * Doe**" (The * can stand for any middle initial or name in Google only).

The Web is a great instrument for finding information but excellent resources reside along side the most dubious. To get the most out the internet, *cultivate the habit of healthy skepticism.*

For more information check out these web sites:

- [Evaluating Information Found on the Internet](http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/) <<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/>> An excellent series of pages on this subject (from the Milton Library at Johns Hopkins University).
- [Critical Evaluation of Resources](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Evaluation.html) <<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Evaluation.html>> Provides a more theoretical look at the criteria and importance of evaluating all types of resources (from the UC Berkeley Teaching Library).
- [Librarians' Index to the Internet](http://lii.org) <<http://lii.org>>. Annotated descriptions of many other good guides to evaluating web pages, search the subject "Evaluation of Internet Resources"

Lisa Kingery, MG



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

Hort News You Can Use

By Sharon Morrissey

E-mail and snail-mail actually bring a wealth of valuable information to my desk. I only wish I could share it all with you! Here are the abridged versions.

Hort Helpline Survey Results In

A four county survey that included 826 individuals who contacted their county UWEX office through the Horticulture Helpline was conducted through the growing season of 2005. The bottom line? *They like us, they really like us!* Combined, 97% said they were satisfied overall with the service. 98% felt the advisor they talked with was knowledgeable, 93% felt they were also courteous and 83% said they would call the Hort Helpline first the next time they need help. The profile of the average caller is European American/ white, between 45 and 75, female and that they have called an average of 2 times.

The survey covered Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties and was conducted by the UWM Center for Urban Initiatives and Research through a grant from the UWEX Dean's office. In all four counties, MGs played a significant role in the Helpline services. Our Plant Health Advisor MGs should be very proud to be included in this successful program of UWEX. I know the staff feels fortunate and appreciates your knowledge and courteousness, too. The survey final report is available on our website in *News Flash*.

Factsheets To Be Translated

As part of another grant from the UWEX Dean's office, approximately 15 – 20 UWEX horticulture factsheets and pamphlets will be translated into Spanish. Since these funds are identified to improve UWEX environmental education in Spanish, the topics will include invasive plant species such as garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle, etc.; Japanese beetle and the multi-colored Asian ladybeetle; and pesticides.

Boerner In The Balance

Local, regional and state gardeners and nature lovers can be grateful to the Milwaukee Co. Parks Committee for their recent vote to support the Education and Visitors Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens. However, County Exec. Scott Walker does not support the vote and wants another tenant to be found to operate the Center. None has come forward as of yet.

The Friends of BBG have operated the building since it opened in 2003. Most of the construction costs of the Center were raised by a capital cam-

paign conducted by the Friends group. The Friends currently lease the building from the County while the County maintains the gardens. The plan, at least in concept, will provide funding to cover this year's budget shortfall and half of 2006 operating costs at which time The Friends group will turn it over to the County. Without the funding, The Friends will turn over the key in January. The Friends hope to continue to play a major role in providing horticultural education programs at the Gardens.

High Tunnels in Horticulture

The term has emerged to describe tall hoop houses constructed to extend the growing season for some cool season crops. The structures are constructed of plastic pipes arched into hoops and covered with plastic. Crops are grown directly in the soil and by utilizing solar energy and floating row cover, they can grow and produce until the ground freezes inside which is usually around mid-January. New crops can be started again in March.

In Brown County, UWEX Community Garden Coordinator, Bill Wright, is growing salad greens and Asian vegetables for Hmong gardeners in these structures. In 2006 he will partner with 10 schools in Green Bay using the tunnels so that students may grow vegetables for much of the growing season.

Gypsy Moth Spray Program 2005

A successful "Slow The Spread" spray program to control gypsy moth has pushed back the leading edge of the State's infestation by 10 miles. A total of 195,507 acres on 67 sites in 19 western WI counties were sprayed with either *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk), pheromone flakes to disrupt mating, or the viral pesticide Gypchek.

The statewide trapping program set 34,000 traps at regular intervals in all 72 counties starting in late May. Traps are checked until August when the moth flight ends. Moth catch numbers identify the most heavily infested counties which included Marinette, Oconto, Shawano, Door, Outagamie, and Manitowoc. However, this is the second year in a row in which there has been a decrease in moth catches.

In November, 365 sites are surveyed by three egg mass survey crews where moth catches were highest in the western part of the state. This information is used to determine areas to be treated in 2006. Proposed spray blocks, all in the western part of the state will be announced some time in early

97% said they were satisfied overall with the service.

In high tunnels, crops are grown directly in the soil and by utilizing solar energy and floating row cover, they can grow and produce until the ground freezes inside which is usually around mid-January. New crops can be started again in March.

A successful Slow The Spread spray program to control gypsy moth has pushed back the leading edge of the State's infestation by 10 miles

Hort News (continued)

2006.

The federally funded "Slow The Spread" spray program targets the leading edge of infestation. In parts of the state considered to be already generally infested, including the counties bordering Lake Michigan, spray programs may be implemented by individual municipalities at their own expense.

Emerald Ash Borer

Speaking of invasive insect species, the latest and probably most serious ever is the Emerald Ash Borer. Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. Emerald ash borer is also established

in Windsor, Ontario, was found in Ohio in 2003 and northern Indiana in 2004. Since its discovery, EAB has:

- ☞ Killed at least 8 million to 10 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Most of the devastation is in southeastern Michigan.
- ☞ Caused regulatory agencies to enforce quarantines in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.
- ☞ Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.

Sites are now confirmed in Indiana, Ohio and Ontario, Canada. Current locations as of October, 2005 are shown on a map at: http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/TriState_EABpos.pdf. For more information visit the EAB website at: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/index.cfm>.

Emerald ash borer is also established in Windsor, Ontario, was found in Ohio in 2003 and northern Indiana in 2004

News from Waukesha County

By Ann Wied

Happy 2006! It's hard to believe it's a start of another new year. Where did 2005 go? Thanks to all of you who volunteered for the many Master Gardener volunteer projects this past year. The number of volunteer hours that all of you donate is amazing!! If you have any questions about the any of the Waukesha County volunteer projects you have to pick from, remember to feel free to contact me. I'd be happy to answer your questions or, if I don't know the answer, I'll put you in contact with the person who can.

For those of you who are wondering about the outcome of the Waukesha County UW-Extension budget, we were not successful in getting the \$50,000 back in our budget. There will be some definite changes to our office in 2006 due to this loss. I will know more details by the first of the year.

I want to extend a BIG thank you to all who (representing themselves as county residents not Master Gardeners) contacted their county supervisor or attended the county board meetings to show your support of our office and our educational programs. Our office really appreciated your support.

As 2005 comes to an end, I'd like to thank you for the wonderful year. I hope your holidays were happy ones and that the coming year is filled with good health and happiness. May you survive our Wisconsin winter knowing that spring is just around the corner!

Sincerely,
Ann Wied
Consumer Horticulture Educator
Waukesha County UW-Extension



President's Message

Thank you for electing me as your SEWMG president for 2006. I am looking forward to a productive year with the help of the executive board, committee chairpersons and fellow MGs.

One of my goals for this year is to increase attendance and participation at our monthly committee and business meetings, but I can't do this alone. MGs need a reason to come to meetings and, having attended, feel so good about it that they want to come again. If you haven't attended a meeting lately, give it a try. We have multi-talented members that share their expertise in a variety of ways and we can always use more talents to add to the mix. Don't hide your

light under a bushel basket, but let us see your glow. Think of some positive comment that you can share during our sharing period towards the end of meetings: a book to recommend, an interesting article you've read, some technique that you've tried that works, (or doesn't work), a garden worth visiting, etc.

Even though January and February seem like bleak gardening months, those are the best times for dreaming and planning for our active growing season. And what better way to fill in the gardening gaps than to attend a SEWMG meeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

Marcia Zientek, SEWMG President



Volunteer: Realtors' Spring Show

The Realtors' Spring Show 2006 will be at State Fair Park again this year, from Friday Mar. 24 to Sunday Apr. 2. It will be closed Monday, Mar. 27 and Tuesday, Mar. 28.

The shifts will be as follows:

- Friday Mar 24- 3 shifts: 1st from 11:00AM-2:30 PM, 2nd from 2:30 – 6:00PM, 3rd from 6:00-9:00PM
- Saturday Mar 25-3 shifts: 1st from 10:00AM-2:00PM, 2nd from 2:00-6:00PM, 3rd 6:00 – 9:00PM
- Sunday Mar 26 – 2 Shifts: 1st from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, 2nd shift from 2:00 – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday Mar 29- 2 shifts: 1st shift from 3:00 – 6:00 PM, 2nd shift from 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday Mar 30 - 2 shifts: 1st Shift from 3:00 – 6:00 PM, 2nd shift from 6:00 – 9:00 PM

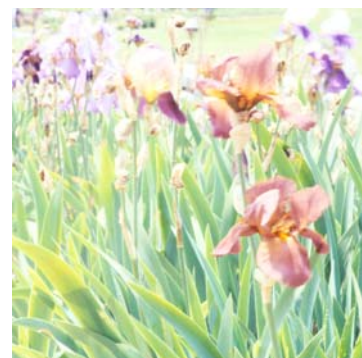
- Friday Mar 31- 3 shifts: 1st from 11:00AM-2:30PM, 2nd 2:30-6:00PM, 3rd 6:00-9:00PM
- Saturday Apr 1- 3 shifts: 1st from 10:00AM-2:00PM, 2nd from 2:00-6:00PM, 3rd from 6:00-9:00PM
- Sunday Apr 2- 2 shifts: 1st from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, 2nd from 2:00 - 6:00 PM

Every shift will have a shift captain, 2 experienced MGs and one MG in training, also we need volunteers for setup on either March 22 or 23 and take down which will start immediately after closing 6:00 PM Sunday, Apr. 2

If you are interested please call Faouzi Kablaoui at 414-352-6557 or email at fkablaoui@aol.com

Please state in your email if you are a MG in training, or if you like to be a shift captain.

All volunteer hours during this show are core hours ♥.



Volunteer: CNI Home, Garden, and Landscape Show Feb. 24, 25, & 26, 2006

By the time you receive this newsletter, most slots to volunteer at the 2006 Home, Garden, and Landscape Show (often referred to as the CNI show) will probably be filled. If you were interested in volunteering at this show but never got around to signing up for it, contact Ann Wied (ann.wied@ces.uwex.edu) and get your name on the waiting list. (the "call" for volunteers was done via the MG listserve.) Occasionally as we

near the date for the Show there are cancellations and we will need to fill those slots. If this happens, we will contact those on the waiting list. Also, if you are willing to help set up the exhibit, let us know. Set up is held during the day the Wednesday or Thursday prior to the show. This is a core volunteer activity ♥ and all volunteers are given a free ticket to the show. Questions? Contact Ann Wied or Eugenie Maas (MG coordinator of this show).



Education and Events Around the Region

Here are some of the interesting educational programs and events going on around the region. Contact the organizations for more information on specific programs.

Educational programs offered by these organizations qualify for Continuing Education hours for SEWMGS.

Milw. & Waukesha Co.s UWEX

MG Brown Bag Teleconferences

Monthly, last Friday, 12:00 - 1:00. Contact your county office if planning to attend.

Master Composter Training !!!!!

Saturday, February 25, 2006; 9am—3pm.

Registration materials are available on the SEWMG website at: <http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg/newsevents.cfm>.

Composting is one of the basic skills of gardening. Whether you are a beginner just getting started or have been doing it by the book for years, Master Composter Training might be for you. Participants will be asked to give composting presentations to groups as part of the volunteer component. Sign-up soon, class size is limited.

Ozaukee Co. MGs

262-284-8288

www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/MasterGardener

Rock Prairie MGs & Janesville Rotary Garden

608-752-3885

www.uwex.edu/ces/rock/hort/

For the professional horticulturists....

March 16, 2006: Emerging Issues in Horticulture

And for all garden enthusiasts....

March 18, 2006: The Joys of Gardening. Third Annual Gardening Symposium

(By demand, the registration materials have been released and are now on the website given above. The brief descriptions of each speaker are still in draft form; you'll get the idea of what each is discussing!)

Brown Co. UWEX, Green Bay

(920) 391-4658

Kenosha Co. Gateway Technical College

Winter Green: A Grounds Seminar

Friday, January 27, 2006

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Madrigano Auditorium, 3520 30th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53144

Registration forms available at <http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg/newsevents.cfm>

Racine Co. UWEX

Horticulture Therapy Workshop!!!!

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Interested?: Contact Sharon Morrissey
sharon.morrissey@ces.uwex.edu or (414)290-2412.
Registration information available soon.

The official title of this program is "The Science Behind Horticulture Therapy and How It Is Being Used Today" and it includes hands-on projects you can use in your county. This is a free program with funding provided to the local Extension personnel through a grant from the Dean of Extension.

Other Plant Related Organizations

Friends of Boerner Botanical Garden

414-525-5653

www.boernerbotanicalgardens.org

Havenwoods State Forest

6141 N. Hopkins Street, Milwaukee
(414) 527-0232

Winter NatureFest!!!!

Saturday, February 18, 2006

10:00am – 4:00 pm

With a theme of "Mammals: Surviving the Big Chill", there will be indoor and outdoor activities for kids of all ages and families including craft projects, games and snowshoeing (in Milwaukee!). This is both an educational opportunity and a core volunteer opportunity♥. Contact Sue or Judy at Havenwoods for information and to volunteer.

Buds 'n Sprouts Youth Gardening Workshop!!!!

Sat., March 25, 2006

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Joint project of DNR and UWEX

The Buds 'n Sprouts Garden Educator Workshop is being offered as a program to help teachers, youth group leaders and volunteers involved with children to create or enhance kids' gardening programs. To register call Havenwoods (deadline 3/17).

Educational programs offered by these organizations qualify for Continuing Education hours for SEWMGS.



*Submit educational opportunities and events to newsletter editor, MG Sandy Manning
(sandy@the-mannings.org)*

SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, Inc.
Master Gardeners, Inc.

Milwaukee County UW-Extension
Roosevelt Education Center
932 S. 60th St.
West Allis, WI 53214-3346

Phone: 414-290-2400
Fax: 414-290-2424
TDDY 800-947-3529

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

[HTTP://MILWAUKEE.UWEX.EDU/MG/](http://MILWAUKEE.UWEX.EDU/MG/)



Mailed with this issue:

- January and February Calendar Pages
- Master Composters Program registration
-

Pick 'n Save "We Care" Number - 718790

Local Pick 'n Save stores donate to local nonprofit charities. To take advantage of this to support SEWMGs, use this number when registering for your card. Already have a card? The number can be added to your card at any Pick 'n Save Service Counter. We are listed as Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners. You may list up to three organizations on your card.



For more information:

Master Gardener Hotline	414-290-2416
On the Web	http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/mg/
Sharon Morrisey (Consumer Hort. Agent, Milwaukee)	414-290-2412; sharon.morrisey@ces.uwex.edu
Ann Wied (Consumer Hort. Educator, Waukesha)	262-548-7788; ann.wied@ces.uwex.edu
Kathy Reese (Volunteer Coordinator)	414-290-2416; kathy.reese@ces.uwex.edu
Ellen Blankenship (Assistant Volunteer Coordinator)	414-290-2416; ellen.blankenship@ces.uwex.edu
Peg Fleury (Diagnostics Project Coordinator)	414-290-2414; peg.fleury@ces.uwex.edu

UWEX Milwaukee County Office

Roosevelt School, 932 S. 60th Street, West Allis, 53214

UWEX Waukesha County Office

Waukesha Co. Courthouse/Administration Center, 1320 Pewaukee Rd.,
Waukesha, 53188