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This newsletter announces some proposed changes to RPMGA's bylaws. This article is a guide to help you understand why we're suggesting them and what the process for approving them will be.

So, Why, Exactly, Do We Have To Change Our Bylaws?

First, it's important to understand just what bylaws are.

Bylaws are operational rules meant to guide the board of directors of an organization. They come in the form of a written document that is both legal and binding, so they should be taken seriously. Bylaws help maintain organization and keep decision-making in check and are crucial to the functioning of the board of directors. (More about our board of directors in a moment.)

Many rules, procedures, and processes are outlined in an organization's bylaws. For example, things such as organization-related requirements, details on how elections will work, and the structure of meetings or how to organize meetings may all be included. Essentially, bylaws act as a sort of guidebook or rulebook for many of the most essential functions in an organization and can be used as a reference in difficult or complicated situations in the future.



Websites

MGV Hours Reporting:
mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu/
report-your-hours/

**Canvas UW Online
Classroom:**
<https://canvas.wisc.edu/>

RPMGA Blog:
rpmga.blogspot.c
om

RPMGA on Facebook:
Hit control/click on this
link:
[RPMGA on Facebook](#)

Rotary Gardens:
rotarybotanicalgardens.
org

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Program:**
mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Association
(WIMGA):** wimga.org

Now that we have that figured out, why do WE need new bylaws?

As you all have undoubtedly noticed, there have been a number of organizational changes to the Master Gardener Program that have come down from the powers that be at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension. One of those things was the structure of the local (county) organizations which are operating in many places around the state. For us that’s the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, Inc.

Inc. you ask? Yes. As in Incorporated, to give it its true and complete designation. We have changed our designation from just an organization with no particular legal standing to one that is recognized by the State of Wisconsin as a non-stock, non-profit corporation. As of September 22, 2021, we have a board of directors (remember I said there’d be more about that later?) made up of a president (Ruth Flescher), vice president (Mary Kay Thompson), secretary (Susan Wood), and treasurer (Deb Kenney Grams).

The RPMGA board, at the moment, does not have a regular meeting schedule. It meets as needed. Although there is a membership meeting schedule outlined in the current bylaws it is not being followed, due in large part to three primary factors: 1) the resignation of the previous Rock County Horticulture Educator leaving us without oversight for nearly two years; 2) COVID-19 state mandates of masking and social distancing which for some time made person-to-person meetings difficult, if not impossible; and 3) a lack of member participation at meetings. Therefore, RPMGA has not been having monthly meetings but has also been meeting according to need, a practice that has proven to work surprisingly well.

***For a complete explanation of how to
become a corporation go to:
[https://www.legalzoom.com/articles/how-to-
form-a-wisconsin-corporation](https://www.legalzoom.com/articles/how-to-form-a-wisconsin-corporation)***

In 2021 the University of Wisconsin Master Gardener Program suggested that local organizations become state recognized as legal entities to lessen the likelihood of liability – theirs as well as ours. In addition, they asked that all organizations state-wide update their bylaws to reflect any and all program changes that could impact either the state program or the local program.

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RPMGA Notes

April Program: Cover Crops in the Urban Landscape, Thursday, April 7, 5:30 p.m., online

We've all heard about cover crops, but maybe we thought they were more related to agriculture than home gardens. Not so, says Claire Strader, Dane County Extension Small Scale and Organic Produce Educator. Cover crops definitely should have a place in our garden knowledge, especially for vegetable plots. Strader will join us to talk about using cover crops in the urban landscape: what they are, how they can benefit us, which seeds to use for various purposes and how to process them for maximum benefit. While her presentation focuses on their use with vegetable gardens, she says we're welcome to challenge her with questions about how to use them in other home landscape situations. **Connection information will be sent to MGVs shortly.**



NOTE: May Program to Take Place in April

Tour of Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden, Friday, April 22, 10:00 a.m. at the Hospital

After he left Rotary Gardens and started his own business, Mark Dwyer also took on the management of the Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden. When we asked Dwyer if we could come tour the garden with him, he was enthusiastic. When we suggested a date in early May, he said the new bulb display would be at its peak in mid to late April. So we're having our May program early. In addition to the floral display, Dwyer will talk about plans for the garden, new areas and how the space can be used to greater effect.

The Hospital is located off Highway 59, just west of Interstate 90. We'll meet there for a 10:00 a.m. tour. Dwyer suggests parking in front of the SSM/Dean wing of the building, and walking around the building to the left, following the green Healing Garden signs. Yes, you'll walk past some dumpsters, but look beyond for the pavilion and join us there. (Note: if you need to enter the building for rest rooms or any other purpose, masks are still required along with a temperature check.) *If rain seems likely for the 22nd, we will email on the 21st and switch to our alternate date of Friday, April 29, at 10:00 a.m.*



We're Invited: Spring Ephemerals in Beulah Bluff Preserve, Tuesday, April 26, 6:00 p.m.

The Walworth County Master Gardener Volunteer Association has invited us to join them for an in-person walk in Beulah Woods to look for spring wildflowers. The walk will be led by Rory Klick of the Kettle Moraine Land Trust. Klick gave an outstanding presentation in February, introducing the variety of spring ephemerals that might be seen on the tour. (If you missed it, you can still watch at <https://youtu.be/xUQ1izx4UwA>) Dress for breezy weather and possibly muddy paths. Bring Insect repellent—tick season is at hand. Beulah Buff Preserve is located at N9026 Bakavi Way, East Troy, WI 53120.

PLEASE RSVP to Sue Leedle if you plan to attend.

jsleedle@oawl.net

Next Coffee Chat: Tuesday, April 12, 9:00 a.m. online

Don't forget this month's virtual coffee chat with Rock and Walworth county MGVs. It's a great place to hear the latest, meet MGVs you may not know, and generally feel more connected. Julie Hill will send out an email with the link to the Zoom session shortly. Hope you can be there!



Statewide MG Program Notes

New Online Reporting System (ORS) Is Up and Running

[Watch these YouTube videos](https://masterygardener.extension.wisc.edu/report-your-hours/) to learn about changes to the system: how to add hours, navigate the menu, and more! ORS can be found at <https://masterygardener.extension.wisc.edu/report-your-hours/>

FAQ/Info for Organizations/Add an Organization

Still have questions about this year's changes? [Frequently Asked Questions \(Google Document\)](#)

Need to share info with an organization you want to volunteer for? <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/for-organizations/>

Need to add an organization to ORS? You can now enter it directly in ORS for approval.



Rotary Gardens Monthly "What's in Bloom? Tours" Begin Wednesday, April 20, 6-7:00 p.m.

Rotary Botanical Gardens Director of Horticulture, Michael Jesiolowski will provide a behind-the-scenes look at what's blooming this month and answer any questions you may have. What's in Bloom? Tours take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (April- August) and the 4th Wednesday of September. The tours are free for RBG members, or \$10 for non-members. To register, please call 608.752.3885 or sign up in person on the day of the tour.

Earth Day Event

Come to Rotary Gardens on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for an Earth Day Celebration. We will have outdoor family and youth activities throughout the day, including exciting games, garden adventures, hands-on projects and community information courtesy of RBG and a variety of local organizations. Admission to the Gardens is free to all during these activities. In addition to all of the other activities, we also will host three live exotic animal shows with Zoozort. [Learn more and purchase Zoozort tickets.](#) Questions? Call (608) 314-8415 or email Delaney.sherwood@rotarygardens.org



The poster features the Rotary Botanical Gardens logo in the top left, which includes a purple flower icon and the text "Rotary Botanical Gardens JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN". The main title "Earth Day Celebration" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, the date "APRIL 23, 2022" and time "10 A.M. - 2 P.M." are displayed in white, with a purple flower icon between them. A purple heart icon is in the top right. A green horizontal line with a plant sprout icon at its left end separates the header from the activity list. The activities are listed in white text inside light green cloud shapes: "Outdoor Children's Activities" (with a plant sprout icon), "Family Education", "Outdoor Community Exhibits", and "Inside Zoozort Shows". At the bottom, it says "Purchase Zoozort tickets online: RotaryBotanicalGardens.Org/EarthDay".

Volunteer Opportunity: RPMGA at Earth Day

RPMGA will be one of the community organizations present at Earth Day. We'll be helping people plant lettuce bowls, in keeping with the National Garden Bureau's declaration of the 2022 as the Year of the Salad Greens. Can you help staff a table from 10-noon or noon to 2? Contact Mary Kay Thompson to volunteer: mastergardenermary@gmail.com



Rotary Gardens Volunteer Opportunities

Plant Sale Volunteers This year's in-person plant sale takes place earlier. The dates are April 28-May 1. Rotary will need help with, cashiers, sales assistants to cashiers, pre-sale helpers, yard sales and loaders. Sign up for a shift at <https://signup.com/go/nRZkBCE>

General Garden Volunteers tend beds, help plant and weed, water, and more. Please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/kJZRkCp>

Garden Ambassadors needed for Tuesday evenings, Saturday afternoons and evenings, and Sunday afternoons. Additional **Tour Guides** wanted for the many tours that are being booked for this year. You don't have to be an expert on the Gardens or the plants to fill these positions. Please let Carla Edgar know if you are interested in becoming an Ambassador or Guide. You can also contact Carla with any questions about volunteering at Rotary: volunteer@rotarygardens.org

Events for Fun

Plant Sale Season Begins Online

Rotary Gardens Spring Plant Sale will have both an on-line element and the usual in-person event. The online sale includes a variety of plants sourced from Intrinsic Perennial Gardens. These plants will not be stocked at the in-person sale—they must be preordered by April 17 for pick up during the in-person sale, April 29 through May 1. Take a look here for on-line only perennials:

<https://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/spring-plant-sale/>

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden's annual Plant Sale Fundraiser is back, with virtual shopping to pre-purchase plants online beginning Friday, April 8 and order pick-ups on May 6th and 7th in Klehm's Garden Pavilion in Rockford, IL. Any plants not sold through online pre-orders will be available for purchase in-person on May 6th and 7th, but quantities and varieties will be limited. The perennials and shrubs have been carefully selected to be new or unique varieties of beloved perennials and shrubs that would be a great addition to your home landscape. Go to <https://klehm.org> and search for the virtual plant sale on or after April 8.



Photo by Orla Swift

Rock County Conservationists Native Plant Sale This popular event offers a selection of native plants at very reasonable prices (\$3/plant for non-RCC members). Preorder by May 9, and pick up your order at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beloit on Saturday, May 21 from 9-11 a.m. This year in addition to the native perennials, naturalist Dave Bendlin will be offering a few annual plants that—while not native—have proved to be hummingbird and butterfly magnets (Texas Sage, Tropical Milkweed, Mexican Sunflower, and a purple-flowered Salvia). Dave's non-native plants can only be purchased at the pick-up site on May 21. First come, first served—when they're gone, they're gone. **If you'd like a copy of the order form**, email Ruth Flescher at yafello2@gmail.com and she'll send it.

The Secret Life of Butterflies Exhibit at Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens, Rockford,

Explore the wild, wonderful, and often strange world of butterflies and moths! See the whole lepidoptera lifecycle in action as caterpillars munch on leaves, butterflies emerge from their chrysalises, and moths from their cocoons. Get an up-close look at these amazing insects in the butterfly house as you're surrounded by native and exotic butterflies. Pre-registration highly encouraged! Tickets go on sale 2-4 weeks out. [Purchase Tickets](#)



Mushroom Inoculation Workshop, Friday, April 8, noon to 2 p.m., Silverwood Park, Edgerton. Additional dates: April 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16.

Co-sponsored by Friends of Silverwood Park, Dane County Parks and Foundation for Dane. RPMGA's last in-person education program before Covid shut us down in 2020 was a mushroom program by Tom Northey, brother of our very own Susan Wood. Northey was incredibly well informed on the subject and presented a wonderful program for us. He both forages mushrooms and grows them in captivity. Now he is the featured expert at Silverwood Park's annual mushroom Inoculation workshop, which is being held on 6 different dates this month. Northey will educate you on growing your own mushrooms and help you inoculate your own oak log with shitake. The process takes about 30 minutes. Registration and pre-payment is required: \$20 to prepare your own log, \$30 to pick up a pre-inoculated log from the park. For more info and to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2dt59kvz> (Note: the MGVA program specifies that programs on mushrooms and fungi do not count toward education hours.)

Open House, Angelic Organics Learning Center, Caledonia IL, Saturday, April 9, noon-3:00 p.m.

Angelic Organics has been growing produce in accordance with organic and sustainable principals since 1990. The Learning Center is an educational non-profit devoted to helping people build and sustain local food systems. They're having an open house. Meet the staff and learn about all the programs they have to offer- from farmer training to summer camps! While here, you can pet the goats, explore the land, and try a composting toilet. They'd appreciate an RSVP. For more info, directions, or to reply, go to www.growlearnconnect.org

More Training Available in April and Beyond

Looking for Level 2 MGV training--The Plants Plus modules? You can find them in the online classroom, Canvas, which you access with your UW NetID at <https://canvas.wisc.edu/> As of now, Plants Plus modules are ONLY available in Canvas. Check regularly for new modules!

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Classes are in person at the Gardens unless otherwise noted. Fees listed are for Olbrich Members/General Public. For more info, copy and paste this address: <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

Registration for these classes has closed, but try calling to see if they'll let you in at the last minute:
608-246-4550

April 6, Designing with Foliage, 6-7:30 p.m., \$16/\$20. Register by March 30.

April 7, Wisconsin Spring Wildflowers in Woodlands and Prairies, online, 6-8:00 p.m., \$18/\$22.
Register by March 31.

April 9, By the Light of the Moon: An Evening Garden, online, 6-8:00 p.m., \$18/\$22. Register by March 31.

Registration is open for these classes. If a class is shown as "filled," see if you can get on a waiting list.
Cancellations do occur.

April 12, Spring into Gardening-Get Ready for the Season!, 5:30-7 p.m., \$20/\$25. Register by April 5.

April 23, Woody Plants for Butterflies (and Moths!), 1-4 p.m., \$24/\$30. Registration deadline: April 13.

April 28, New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden, online, 7-8:30 p.m., \$12/\$15. Register by April 27.

May 5, Small Native and Nativar Trees for Home Landscapes, online, 6-8 p.m., \$18/\$22. Register by April 28.



Nature Hike, Sunday, April 3, 1-2:30 p.m., UW Arboretum, Madison

Learn about the land, plants, animals, fungi, phenology, and ecology. Geared for adults, this walk may cover some sloping terrain. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and come seasonally prepared for weather and insects. Walks take place rain or shine, except in unsafe weather. Free, no registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Accessible Gardens, Tuesday, April 5, 6-7:00 p.m. online

Join Mark Dwyer as he gives advice and tips on how to design and create a garden that is accessible yet attractive and practical. Find ways to maximize your efficiency and enjoyment of your garden space by making a few simple adjustments and/or modifications that Mark has to share! Free. Register AND get the Zoom link at <https://www.edgertonhospital.com/events/2022/april/accessible-gardens/>

Organic Vegetable Garden Planning & Techniques, Wednesday, April 6, 9-11:00 a.m. online

Green Thumb Gardening Classes from Dane County Extension: Organic and Small Farm Outreach Specialist Claire Strader will get you ready for organic vegetable gardening with strategies and tips for advanced as well as newer gardeners. She will cover crop selection, creating in-ground beds, timing of crops, crop spacing, building productive soils, using cover crops, and more. You will leave with at least four electronic handouts full of great information. Fee: \$12. Registration required by April 3. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-green-thumb-gardening-spring-series-online-registration-194611717887>

Ticks of Illinois: Biology, Bite Prevention, and Management, Wednesday, April 6, 2-3:00 p.m., online

This presentation will cover the ticks of human health concern in Illinois, disease agents found in ticks by the statewide surveillance program conducted at the University of Illinois' INHS Medical Entomology Lab, best practices for tick bite prevention, and suggestions on land management to reduce tick encounters. The speaker is Holly Tuten, Vector Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey. Free, but registration required. Go to <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25029>

Wild Ones Green Infrastructure Series: Native Plants for Improving Stormwater, Thursday, April 7, 6:00 p.m., online

This program will go in-depth into how phytoremediation (using plants to clean up soil, air, and water containing hazardous contaminants) can be used to improve stormwater quality. Speaker Eric Fuselier will cover a wide range of native plant species and contaminants, including arsenic, chlorinated solvents, sediment, and nutrient pollution. Free, but registration required. Deadline to sign up is April 3. Go to <https://wildones.org/green-infrastructure-webinar-series/>



PBS Garden and Landscape Expo Virtual Spring Kickoff, Saturday, April 9, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., online

Here's a second round for Garden Expo—this time online! The event will include educational presentations with live Q&A, a 360 video garden tour, a gallery of images from the annual garden photography competition, kids' activities and more! Free but donations appreciated. Check out the schedule of classes at <https://wigardenexpo.com/schedule/> and register for the event at <https://wigardenexpo.com/>



Succulent Dish Garden Workshop, Saturday, April 9, 2-3:30 p.m. Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

Come out to Klehm to learn about succulents and create your own one-of-a-kind succulent dish garden! Director of Education & Programming Sam Burbach will teach you about growing and propagating succulents and walk you through the steps to create a mixed succulent dish garden that will be the perfect accent indoors and can be brought outside when the weather has warmed. All plants and supplies will be provided to create a medium-sized dish garden. Fee: \$40. Space is limited.

Registration required. Go to <https://checkout.square.site/buy/JFFX-ARP6DJKQ43GZ6U4CPFLZ>

Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden: History and Plans 2022, Tuesday, April 12, Noon-1:00 p.m., Edgerton Hospital

Join Mark Dwyer as he talks about the history of Edgerton Hospital's Healing Garden and the future plans for 2022. Registration encouraged but not required. Walk-ins welcome. To register in advance, go to <https://www.edgertonhospital.com/events/2022/april/coffee-chat-with-mark-dwyer-ehhs-healing-garden-history-and-plans-2022/>

Vegetable Garden Plant Families, Insects, and Diseases, Wednesday, April 13, 9-11:00 a.m., online

Dane County Extension Green Thumb Gardening Class. This class reviews common vegetable families and how to grow the crops within them. Crop rotation, best management practices and typical diseases and insects you might encounter will be briefly addressed. A practice session on crop rotation and insect scouting is included. Fee: \$12. Registration required by April 12. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-green-thumb-gardening-spring-series-online-registration-194611717887>

Ecology and Identification of Common Woodland Ferns in Illinois, Wednesday, April 13, 2-3:00 p.m., online

Ferns are an integral part of Illinois ecosystems. While ferns can occur in many different habitats, this presentation will focus on ferns found in Illinois woodlands, including their ecology, life history, and how to identify some of the common woodland ferns. The speaker is Chris Evans, Extension Forester, University of Illinois. Free, but registration required. Go to <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25029>



Wild Ones Green Infrastructure Series: Native Plants for Improving Outdoor Air Quality, Thursday, April 14, 6:00 p.m., online

This program will go in-depth into how phytoremediation (using plants to clean up soil, air, and water containing hazardous contaminants) can be used to improve outdoor air quality. Speaker Eric Fuselier will cover a wide range of native plant species and contaminants, including particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, volatile organic compounds, and atmospheric carbon. Free, but registration required. Deadline to sign up is April 11. Go to <https://wildones.org/green-infrastructure-webinar-series/>

Nature Hike, Sunday, April 17, 1-2:30 p.m., UW Arboretum, Madison

Learn about the land, plants, animals, fungi, phenology, and ecology. Geared for adults, this walk may cover some sloping terrain. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and come seasonally prepared for weather and insects. Walks take place rain or shine, except in unsafe weather. Free, no registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.



Beneficial Backyard Bugs, Monday, April 18, 6-7:30 p.m., online

Wisconsin is home to 20,000+ insect species—the vast majority of which provide benefits to humans. In this presentation, P.J. Liesch of the UW's Insect Diagnostic Lab will discuss the many ways in which insects help us out and also take a look at how common these beneficial creatures can be in our own area. Sponsored by the Fond du Lac Public Library. Free, no registration required. Click this link to join the Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84546949727...>

Gardening in Community Gardens – Get Ready and Grow, Tuesday, April 19, 5:30 p.m. in person

Gardening in community gardens or small spaces can have challenges in addition to those that every gardener faces. In this program, Julie Hill will talk about soil health, proper planting techniques, and weed control so you can improve the health and productivity of your garden plot for the upcoming growing season. This is a free and in-person program sponsored by the UW-Madison, Division of Extension Rock County. No pre-registration required. Class will be held at the Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center, 1717 Center Ave., Janesville.

Fundamentals of Plant Disease, Wednesday, April 20, 9-11:00 a.m., online

Dane County Extension Green Thumb Gardening Class. Dr. Brian Hudelson of the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic will present information about disease-causing organisms (fungi, bacteria, viruses, phytoplasmas and nematodes) and the symptoms they cause, environmental factors that favor disease development, and ways to avoid and manage disease. He will cover plant disorders caused by factors such as nutrient imbalances, pesticides, environmental pollutants and adverse environmental conditions as well. Fee: \$12. Registration required by April 19. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-green-thumb-gardening-spring-series-online-registration-194611717887>

Wild Ones Presents Native Plants for Improving Soil Contamination, Thursday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. online

This program will go in-depth into how plants can be used to improve the quality of contaminated soils. Speaker Eric Fuselier will cover a wide range of native plant species and contaminants, including petroleum, pesticides, heavy metals, and the emerging field of “phytomining”, an exciting new form of phytotechnology where heavy metals are reclaimed from the soil for reuse. Free, but registration required by April 18. Go to <https://wildones.org/green-infrastructure-webinar-series/>



Veggies – Containers and Small Spaces, Thursday, April 21, 6-7:00 p.m. online

Maximize your own gardening space at home! Growing herbs and vegetable in containers can provide a bounty of produce in a small space. Join Mark Dwyer and find out how productive small garden spaces can be by learning a few helpful tips such as, selecting the rights plants, proper growing season and maximizing vertical space. Free. Register AND get the Zoom link at <https://www.edgertonhospital.com/events/2022/april/veggies-containers-and-small-spaces/>

Gardening with Native Plants, Thursday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., online

Native plants are the basis of sustainable, diverse, and beautiful gardens supporting pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife. These gardens thrive without fertilizers, pesticides, mowing, or supplemental watering. We will share garden examples, plant sources, and practical tips for garden care. Sponsored by the Clear Lake Public Library. Free. Info on how to access the program will be forthcoming. Check this website: <https://today.wisc.edu/events/view/168528>

Rain Barrel Installation Demo, Saturday, April 23, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Welty Environmental Center, Beloit

As part of its Earth Day celebration, Welty Environmental Center is sponsoring a demo on how to put in rain barrels. Collecting rain water lets you reduce your dependence on (and the cost of) metered water from your municipality or pumped water from your well. It also reduces runoff and helps sustain aquifers. Plus rainwater is naturally soft and excellent for plants. This is a drop-in event with no fee and no registration necessary, though donations are appreciated. Stay for one of the 15-minute compost demos if you like!

Magnolias Garden Tour, Saturday, April 23, 1-3:00 p.m., UW Arboretum, Madison

Tour the Longenecker Horticultural Gardens' extensive collection of more than 80 magnolia trees. Join David Stevens, garden curator, for a blast of dazzling spring color. Free, no registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.



Weedless Gardening, Monday, April 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m., online

Lee Reich introduces a novel way of caring for the soil, one that results in fewer weeds. This 4-part system emulates rather than fights Mother Nature for healthier plants and less weeds. Each part of the system also brings about other benefits beyond fewer weeds. This presentation will address application of this system to establish new plantings as well as to maintain existing plantings. The principles and practices are rooted in the latest agricultural research and are also applicable to sustainable, small farm systems. The program is sponsored by the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association. Free, but registration required. Go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtdU6qpzkqHd3UJlkuH1CVJZkgwpNPC4vB> to sign up. Note: the registration form says the program begins at 6 p.m. The “meeting room” will open at 6:00, the speaker will begin the program at 6:30.

Invasive Jumping Worms: The Impact of a New Soil Invader, Tuesday, April 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m., online

Jumping worms are a new non-native, invasive species to Wisconsin and the Midwest U.S. Brad Herrick's talk will be hosted by DCMGA for the Winter Education Series, and focuses on general earthworm biology and ecology, potential impacts of the jumping worm to forests and

gardens, and potential control options. Free. Registration information will be provided closer to the commencement of this event! Go to <https://today.wisc.edu/events/view/165974>

Fruit Trees, Wednesday, April 27, 9-11:00 a.m., online

Dane County Extension Green Thumb Gardening Class. Learn proper planting, pruning and training techniques for several types of fruit trees. The class covers selection, planting, fertilization, watering, staking and some common insects and diseases. You will receive electronic copies of publications from the UW-Madison Dept. Learning Store. Fee: \$12. Registration required by April 26. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-green-thumb-gardening-spring-series-online-registration-194611717887>

Solving the Climate Crisis, An Evening with Bob Lindmeier, Thursday, April 28, 7 p.m., UWW at Rock County, Janesville

Bob Lindmeier, in addition to being the senior chief meteorologist at WKOW-TV, has been a leader in climate change education for years. This evening event will address questions such as these: How do we know we're in a climate crisis? What's happening to our climate? Are humans causing it? What are the consequences of climate change. What are climate projections for the short and long term? What can we do about it? The address is 2909 Kellogg Ave, Janesville. Signs will lead you to the event.



Tree Diversity Walking Tour, Friday, April 29, 2-2:30 p.m., Kenosha County Center, Bristol, WI

As part of Kenosha County's Arbor Day Celebration, their Extension Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Vijai Pandian, will lead a guided walk to talk about the benefits and importance of having many different types of trees included in our urban canopies. Note: the Arbor Day event begins at 1:30 with a welcome and a tree planting ceremony at 1:45 at the Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, Bristol WI 53104. Registration required by April 27. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Early Signs of Spring Garden Tour, Saturday, April 30, 1-3:00 p.m., UW Arboretum, Madison

As trees begin to leaf out, Dutchman's breeches, twin-leaf, and rue-anemones might be blooming in the woodland gardens, and prairie-smoke in the prairie gardens. Susan Carpenter, garden curator, will lead this tour of the Native Plant Garden. Free, no registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.

History of Forest Pest Outbreaks in North America, Wednesday, May 4, 2-3:00 p.m., online

North America has a history of exotic pests that extirpate individual tree species, with Emerald Ash Borer serving as our modern example. In our current, ever-globalizing society there is significant risk for future outbreaks that may impact all of our trees from the urban forest to our woodlands. This presentation will examine past outbreaks on our continent to compare and contrast what we have learned historically with the current pests threatening our native trees. The speaker is Ryan Pankau, Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois. Free, but registration required. Go to <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25029>

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, Sunday, May 8, 10-11:30 a.m., Welty Environmental Center

For nature-lovers, there is no better way to celebrate the final arrival of spring than a hike in the forest to observe the blooms of spring wildflowers. On this hike we'll look for the blooms of Dutchman's breeches, hepaticas, violets, spring beauty, wild ginger, and anemones. Dependent on the yearly variation in bloom time, there may also be columbine, blue wood phlox, trilliums and Jack in the Pulpit. Big Hill Park is the perfect place for this type of hike because it contains one of the best wildflower displays in Rock County. Led by Dave Bendlin. Note: This is an active program that will require walking on various terrains throughout Big Hill Park. Free, but registration required. Go to https://weltycenter.org/event/mothers-day-wild-flower-walk-5-8-22/?instance_id=3586

Trees and Storm Damage, Wednesday, May 11, 2-3:00 p.m., online

Trees are wonderful plants to incorporate into our landscape and have in our communities but what happens when midwestern weather events threaten the health and safety of these plants? Snow, and ice can weigh heavy on trees resulting in branch failure. Wind events can whip and twist limbs, influencing structural stability of tree canopies. Two diametrically opposed climate events of drought and flooding may not produce immediate symptoms of stress but may emerge over time. Join us as we explore the factors of weather that impact our trees and how to respond in the aftermath of a storm to protect people and treat storm damaged trees. Presenter: Emily Swihart, Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois. Free, but registration required. Go to <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25029>



So, Why, Exactly, Do We Have To Change Our Bylaws?, *continued*

What Changes Have Been Suggested and Why?

On March 14 we held our first Bylaws Committee meeting by Zoom with the entire RPMGA, Inc. board of directors and three member volunteers in attendance. Those volunteers were Art Hilker, Rose Last, and Beverly Drew. The meeting ran for several hours and we completed a wide range of proposed changes to the bylaws. Following the meeting an annotated copy, with all the language to be omitted ~~struck out~~ and new text added *in italics* to make it easier to see how the document was being changed, was forwarded to all committee members. Several additional proposed changes were made by email communication and consensus. All proposed revisions will now be presented to you via the RPMGA email membership list.

What happens next?

What we hope to accomplish by presenting this material to you through the RPMGA email list is that you will be able to see exactly what changes have been proposed. If you find anything that you take exception to, or don't believe is in the best interests of the organization, we encourage you to send an immediate email to RPMGA Secretary, Susan Wood at woodslibrarymedia@gmail.com.

You can also comment during an **online discussion session via Zoom on Thursday, April 7 at 5:00 p.m.**, (just before our program on cover crops). You can ask questions and express any concerns you may have.

If there are no objections to the changes there will be a 30-day waiting period during which you can still make suggestions for change. If, at the end of the 30-day period there are no further changes, we will hold **an in-person membership meeting on May 12 at 5:30 pm** in the downstairs conference room at Premier Bank. At that time all members present will have the opportunity to vote to accept or reject the changes. If the vote shows the changes are accepted, RPMGA board secretary Susan Wood will confirm the changes and publish a secure copy of the updated Bylaws to Google Documents where it can be reviewed by all members who will be furnished with a link to the document. That document will be for viewing only. It will not be able to be modified. You will also be furnished with an electronic copy of that document for your own files.

(Note: The Bylaws Committee was formed for the sole purpose of conducting an evaluation of the Bylaws, making recommendations for adaptations and changes, and to see the changes through to completion. Upon the acceptance of the updated Bylaws by the membership vote, the Bylaws Committee will be disbanded.)

Mary Kay Thompson

The **Master Gardener Update** is developed by and distributed online monthly by the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, Incorporated, for master gardener volunteers who consider Rock County, Wisconsin, their “home” county. Current officers of the association include Ruth Flescher, president (yafello2@gail.com); Mary Kay Thompson, vice president (mastergardenermary@gmail.com); Sue Wood, Secretary (woodslibrarymedia@gmail.com) and Deb Grams, treasurer (debgrams@yahoo.com).

Mailing Address: Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, c/o Sue Wood
1616 Holly Drive
Janesville, WI 53546