

Master Gardener Update

August 2018

In this Issue

Small Carpenter Bees

RPMGA Event:
A Talk with the Bee Inspector

Rotary Gardens Events:
Horticultural Therapy
Symposium;
Botanic Talk: Gardening for
Pollinators

Honoring Shirley Stekel

RECAP Garden Open House

Field Days from the UW Dept.
of Horticulture

Volunteer Opportunities

Education Calendar

Pollinator Project

Small Carpenter Bees

Ceratina spp.

Small carpenter bees are small- to mid-sized bees (~ ¼ - ½ inch long) and have a dark metallic blue body. Males have a distinct white patch in the middle of their head, between the eyes. There are just a few species of small carpenter bees in Wisconsin, but these bees can be quite common. Female

small carpenter bees typically nest inside of hollow twigs and plant stems. To create their nests, the females often dig out the soft, central pith to create a tunnel. These bees forage on a wide variety of flowers.

The small carpenter bee, with its relatively hairless, ant-like body, should not be confused with the more notorious large carpenter bees (*Xylocopa spp.*). (See comparison on the next page.) The smaller bee doesn't have the jaw strength to burrow into wood like its larger relative. Instead it opts for the pithy centers of dead stems of elderberry, box elder, sumac and blackberries. The female lays her eggs in a linear series of brood cells that are partitioned with chewed pith and saliva.



(continues)

<p>Websites</p> <p>UW Extension Rock County: rock.uwex.edu</p> <p>RPMGA Blog: rpmga.blogspot.com</p> <p>Rotary Gardens: rotarybotanicalgardens.org</p> <p>Wisconsin Master Gardener Program: wimastergardener.org</p> <p>Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA): wimga.org</p>	<p>Small carpenter bees are long lived – up to one year. Unlike other solitary bees, the female bee actively manages her brood by sitting guard against predators in the entrance of the stem until the new generation emerges. The brood consists of up to 11-12 brood cells provisioned with “bee bread”—pollen the bees have conditioned for storage that provides protein, vitamins and minerals essential to new bees. The new generation of adults may either over-winter in the natal nest or disperse to find new hibernacula.</p> <p>As pollinators, small carpenter bees feed on and pollinate a wide variety of flowers. Their small size makes them delicate enough to light on and crawl across umbel-shaped flowers, while their relatively long tongues expand the range of flower shapes they can get nectar and pollen from.</p> <p><i>Photo by Steve Nanz, U of Minnesota Extension.</i></p> <p><i>Sources: Wisconsin Bee Identification Guide - Developed by Patrick Liesch, Christy Stewart, and Christine Wen Beeology – Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Naturalist Tim Stanley Wisconsin Spring Bee Guide – UW–Madison</i></p> <div> </div> <p>Two species of carpenter bees with an amazing contrast in size. On the left: the eastern carpenter bee (<i>Xylocopa virginica</i>) dwarfs the small carpenter bee (<i>Ceratina sp.</i>). Though solitary, small carpenter bees can often be found nesting in the hollow stems of dead plants in loose groups.</p> <p><i>Source: National Geographic Wildlife Blog</i></p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

More Useful Info on Bees

Fact Sheet – Supporting Native Bees: Our Essential Pollinators – <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G4001.pdf>

Fact Sheet – Wisconsin Spring Bee Guide – <http://energy.wisc.edu/bee-guide/>

There is also a dichotomous key online at <http://energy.wisc.edu/bee-guide/#>

Fact Sheet - Streamlined Bee Monitoring - http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/StreamlinedBeeMonitoring_web.pdf

RPMGA August Program: A Talk with the Bee Inspector, Thursday, August 30, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Did you know that Wisconsin's Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has two bee inspectors on staff? The inspector for the southern half of the state is Daniel Ziehli, and he will be coming to share his expertise in things that go buzz in the day. As an inspector, he spends the months from May to October checking on backyard and commercial honeybee hives and helping to educate bee keepers on keeping their hives happy. Plus he has expertise on solitary and native bees. There aren't many others who can share as much information on the status of pollinators in Wisconsin. A knowledgeable MGVA who heard him speak recently was thoroughly impressed, and learned a lot from him.

This talk is for you if you have an interest in pollinators of any kind. Dan will address the current state of the overall pollinator community--health, threats, update on colony collapse disorder, etc.--and the kinds of things you can do to help support pollinators.

Date/Time: Thursday, August 30, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Rock County Courthouse, Rm. CCC (Courthouse Conference Center) on the 2nd floor.

Please RSVP by August 24 to yafello2@gmail.com with the number attending so we know how many handouts to prepare.

Next Month's Program: Thursday, September 6 at 1:00 p.m., we'll tour the gardens at Nature at the Confluence in South Beloit.

Rotary Gardens Event: Horticultural Therapy Symposium, Wednesday, August 8, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Growing Healthy Communities – Therapeutic Gardening. A summer symposium featuring topics for home gardeners, occupational therapists, activity professionals, special educators, social workers, other clinicians, and Master Gardeners. Join us as we explore the therapeutic effects and benefits of people-plant interactions. Topics to be covered in featured presentations or breakout sessions include:

Horticultural Therapy at the Chicago Botanical Garden;

Programming for Veterans: What Matters;

Garden Play: Creating Community for the Hospitalized Child;

Classroom and Clinic Gardens—What to Do in 30 Minutes or Less;

The Garden Within - How Research on the Microbiome is Changing Our View of Health and Disease;

Raised Bed Gardening for Physically and Cognitively Challenged Gardeners;



The Use of Outdoor Spaces and Nature-based Therapies: Building Coping Skills in Adolescents;

Gardening for Life

For details on speakers or to connect to the online registration form, go to <http://www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org/event/horticultural-therapy-symposium/>.

Advance registration required. Deadline: August 5. Cost: \$89 includes handouts, materials, instruction/activities, continental breakfast and lunch, plus admission to the garden.

Left: An HT participant at Shriners Hospital for Children, collecting flowers for the day's activity. Chicago Botanic Garden

Rotary Gardens Event: Botanic Talk: Gardening for Pollinators, Wednesday, August 22, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Pollinators include butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and even flies, beetles and wasps. How important are pollinators to life around us? Over 80% of plants require an animal pollinator to reproduce. All pollinators are in trouble for many reasons. Learn about all the different pollinators that are at work in your garden that you may have overlooked. You will be amazed at the lengths that flowers go to in order to attract pollinators and will appreciate the interdependence that pollinators have with plants that we take for granted.

Learn interesting facts about these pollinators and enjoy the photography by Larry Scheunemann in the program "Gardening for Pollinators." Handouts will be provided on gardening for butterflies and hummingbirds.

Be inspired to plant for pollinators!

Cost: \$7 non-member, \$5 RBG Members; includes printed and note taking materials (where applicable), admission to Rotary Botanical Gardens, and light refreshments. Tickets to this event may be purchased at the door, or online, in advance.

Please note: if you would like to view the Gardens, please arrive with time prior to the beginning of the presentation as the Gardens close at 8:00 p.m. Those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult, who is also required to purchase a ticket.

Honoring Shirley Stekel

Most of you know MGV and RPMGA member Shirley Stekel passed on June 15 (see June 17 post at rpmga.blogspot.com). A memorial service for Shirley will take place Sunday, August 19, at the Cravath Lakefront Community Center in Whitewater, WI, from 11:30 to 2:30. Her husband Frank said "Please tell her friends and colleagues that we would greatly appreciate if any of them could attend."

If you wish to make a donation in Shirley's memory, the family suggests either Rotary Gardens or the Humane Society of Jefferson County. For Rotary, you can make a check payable to them and send it directly to the garden with a note saying it's in memory of Shirley Stekel. Business Manager Marcia Leuty says Rotary tracks all memorial donations and notifies the family of their receipt. Mailing address: Rotary Botanical Gardens, Attn: Marcia Leuty, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI 53545. RPMGA is making a donation in her honor to benefit children's education programming at Rotary Gardens. For the Humane Society of Jefferson County, the address is W6127 Kiesling Rd Jefferson, WI 53549, or donate through their website at <https://hsjc-wis.com/>.

RECAP Garden Open House, Wednesday August 22, 4-7 p.m.

If you've never been out to the RECAP garden, next to Janesville's community garden, this is a great day to go take a look! The vegetable garden supports a weekly CSA program, farm-to-table dinner, and donates produce to local food pantries. There's always something different growing: That's a radish!? I had no idea pumpkins could get that big! It's also fun to explore the different growing techniques on display. The garden supports a variety of pollinators with housing, nursery sites and flowers for the nectar and pollen. Beehives produce wax and honey. The beekeeper will be on site to answer questions. Check out the brand new orchard. You may even see (or hear) the chickens. The open house will also include educational displays and snacks and treats.

And while you're there, stroll around the rental plots of the Community Garden to see what other fascinating things people are up to.

The gardens are located near the corner of Highways 14 and 51, just east of the Rock County Sheriff's office. Enter through the Hwy 14 entrance to the Sheriff's office and veer left to the gardens. The RECAP garden is all the way out by Highway 14.

RECAP stands for Rock County Education and Criminal Addiction Program. Through RECAP, the Rock County Sheriff's department helps people who've gotten in trouble learn new coping skills, which will allow them to keep themselves out of jail in the future. Working in the garden and its associated CSA is just one part of the program, which may also include addiction services, anger management, parenting skills, basic education, job skills and much more.

Field Days from the UW Dept. of Horticulture

August will see not one, but two different field day events at the UW's West Madison Ag Research Station. The first is the general Horticultural Open House & Garden Field Day on Saturday, August 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A free, family-friendly event, visitors can tour the station's vineyard, vegetable garden and extensive flowerbeds, and participate in a taste evaluation of fruits and vegetables. UW-Madison and UW-Extension experts will share information and answer questions about pollinators and beneficial insects, plant diseases, turfgrass and general gardening. It's an event that's always worth attending.

The second focuses solely on organic vegetables and takes place on Monday, August 20, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. "This is a great opportunity for vegetable growers to see new varieties out in the field," says event organizer Julie Dawson, a UW-Madison assistant professor of horticulture and UW-Extension urban and regional food systems specialist. "They can talk with plant breeders and seed company staff to learn what's in development and express their priorities and preferences for new varieties." You'll have a chance to learn about the [Seed to Kitchen Collaborative](#), a UW-Madison-led collaboration of local chefs, farmers, and plant breeders that is working to develop full-flavored vegetable varieties with high culinary quality. Also featured will be trials for sweet corn, bell peppers, acorn and delicata squash, cabbage, and tomatoes grown as part of the Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC) project, as well as potato variety trials for organic systems, and tomato trials under organic high tunnel, caterpillar tunnel and field management. You'll have to opportunity to help select beet varieties for high or low "earthy" flavor, and learn about breeding efforts to improve carrots for organic systems and culinary corn breeding. MGVs who've gone in the past rave about the information they got from this event!



Volunteer Opportunities:

Saturday Mornings, August 4, 11 and 25: Ecological Restoration Work Party at the UW Arboretum. From 9 a.m. till noon. August 4: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Seminole Highway and the Beltline Frontage Road. August 11 or 25: meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 11: Janesville Farmers Market. Shifts are 8 to 10:30 or 10:30 to 1. We're looking for one or two people per shift to help give out free seeds, make seed bombs with children and talk to people about gardening. Contact Mary Thompson, mastergardener-mary@gmail.com for information or to volunteer.

Tuesday, August 14: Rotary Gardens Community Day Youth Activities. 1.) Volunteers needed for several hours during the day to help with a variety of children's activities in connection with the monthly Community Appreciation Day. 2.) Any time from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (set your own time): volunteers to talk with families viewing the story walk about what we can learn from the featured story and how parents can encourage children to expand the knowledge gained from the story. Frog knowledge would be essential for this volunteer opportunity. For either 1.) or 2.), contact Barb Converse, mastergardenerbarb@gmail.com.

Wednesday, August 22: RECAP Gardens Open House. From 4:00-7:00 p.m. For details on the type of help needed, contact Deb Grams at debgrams@yahoo.com.

September 6-9: Rotary Gardens Fall Plant Sale. Shifts available for prep, cashiers, yard help (helping customers find the right plants). To sign up for any of the above, contact Rotary Gardens at volunteer@rotarygardens.org.

Two unique opportunities: Hummingbird Banding September 8, and Monarch Tagging September 15 ... Volunteers and families are needed to assist with hummingbird banding at Larry and Emily Scheunemann's residence at 11703 Berg Rd. in rural Whitewater on Saturday, September 8 at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers will have an opportunity to release hummingbirds from their hand when the banding is complete.

Volunteers and families are also needed for Monarch Butterfly tagging on Saturday, September 15 at 1:00 p.m. You will meet at Emily and Larry Scheunemann's home at 11703 Berg Rd. in rural Whitewater. A sunny day is needed for this event. If it is raining, it will not be held.

Composting Talk for October 2. Several MGVs have committed to giving a 1 1/2-hour talk on composting at Hedberg Public Library on October 2 at 6:00 p.m. We're using the presentation developed for the Master Composters but would like to make it as "real life" as possible.

We could use help developing the “live” aspects of the presentation and help demonstrate (or talk) at the presentation. Contact Ruth Flescher, yafello2@gmail.com or Mary Thompson, mastergardenermary@gmail.com.

August Education Calendar

For details on any of these education opportunities, search the web using the program title and/or organization name.

OBG = Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison; UWA = UW Arboretum, Madison; RBG = Rotary Botanical Garden, Janesville; UWW = UW Whitewater; ; AJG = Anderson Japanese Garden, Rockford; WEC = Welty Environmental Center, Beloit; KA = Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, IL; NATC = Nature at the Confluence, South Beloit, IL; MFAI = Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, East Troy; ACG = Allen Centennial Garden, Madison; WMARS = West Madison Ag Research Station; UI = University of Illinois Extension.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Blooming Butterflies through August 12 at OBG	1	2 Pollinator-Friendly Plants Walk OBG/Harvesting Fresh Veges in the Snow OBG/	3	4 Insects and Spiders UWA/
5 Unsung Herbaceous Perennials OBG/ Henry Greene’s Prairie Walk UWA	6	7	8 Horticulture Therapy Symposium RBG/ Create Tropical Effects in Your Garden Walk OBG/ Jumping Worms OBG/Native Grasses UWA/	9 Pollinator-Friendly Plants Walk OBG/ Prairie and Nature Preserve Tour UWW/Ikebana AJG/Speak Bird WEC/	10	11 Pollinator Walk with Barbara Williams KA/Kelly Creek Stream Monitoring WEC & NATC/
12 Sample of 1834 Dane County UWA/”Pond”-ering Life Family Walk UWA/Myth	13	14 Pollinator Habitat Planning for Farmers and Landowners MFAI/	15	16 Upham Greenhouse and Campus Vegetable Garden Tour UWW/Book Group: The	17	18 Open House/Garden Field Day WMARS

Busting Nature KA/				Driftless Reader UWA/Around the World and Home Again on the Wings of Bats AJG/ Book Club: Flower Confidential ACG		
19 Grady Oak Savannah Walk UWA	20 Meadow Gardens Walk OBG/ Organic Vegetable Variety Field Day WMARS	21 Garden Design Walk OBG/ The Golden Hour: Summer Macro Photography NATC/	22 Gardening for Pollinators RBG/ Summer Containers Walk OBG/	23 Campus Flower Gardens Tour UWW/Blooming through Therapeutic Horticulture UI & KA	24 Twilight in the Gardens OBG/	25 Campus Flower Gardens Tour UWW/Full Sturgeon Moon Night Walk UWA/ Beekeeping as a Hobby KA/
26 Late Summer on the Grady Tract UWA/Citizen Science Family Nature Program UWA	27	28 Ornamental Perennial Grasses for Winter Interest OBG/	29	30 A Talk with the Bee Inspector RPMGA/ Pollinator Habitat Planning for Farmers and Landowners MFAI/ Upham Green- house and Campus Vegetable Garden Tour UWW/Bumble Bees WEC/	31	

Looking Ahead to September:

The following event is early in September but requires pre-registration in August. Check website for details. Program is at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison.

Perennial Combinations for Sunny Locations Walk Thursday, September 6, 5:30 – 700 p.m. Register by August 30.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

UW-Extension Rock County, 51 S. Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545