




# Master Gardener Update

## August 2020

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## Websites

### For Rock County

#### MGV info:

rock.extension.wisc.edu/  
upcoming-events-and-  
volunteer-opportunities/  
OR

fyi.extension.wisc.edu/  
mgvrockco/rock-prairie-  
association/

#### MGV Hours Reporting:

wimastergardener.org/  
report-your-hours/

#### RPMGA Blog:

rpmga.blogspot.com

#### RPMGA on Facebook:

Hit control/click on this  
link:

[RPMGA on Facebook](#)

#### Rotary Gardens:

rotarybotanicalgardens.  
org

#### Wisconsin Master Gardener Program:

wimastergardener.org

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

In 2017 and 2018, an additional 9 acres was purchased through a generous donation from Ruth Schuette. This additional land acquired the total acreage within the fenced area (see map, p. 9), including Robert Monk's family home, some out-buildings and a 2-acre lot on Campus Drive. The board and staff are currently revising the 2005 Master Plan to include these new parcels of land.

The garden's vision is to connect people to plants for a sustainable future.

Since the creation of the site, many gardens and other improvements have been made to the property through generous donations of time, talent, and funds.

*continues on pages 9/10*

*Carol and Robert W. Monk*



## Warning: Beware Seeds from China

The US Dept. of Agriculture has received reports of people in various states (including Wisconsin) who received unsolicited packages in the mail containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. Different people have received different types of seeds. Because the packages are marked as containing other items, presumably to avoid the scrutiny normally given to agricultural products coming into this country, the concern is that they may be invasive or toxic plant species. The USDA is working with various federal and state agencies to determine what type of threat the seeds may pose.

If you receive a package of this type:

- Do not plant or throw away the seeds.
- If the seeds are in sealed packaging, do not open the sealed package. If possible, save the original packaging. It may be useful to the investigators.
- Please report the seeds to the Wisconsin DATCP using this online form:

<https://bit.ly/DATCPUnsolicitedSeedPackages>

After filling out the online form, please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until [Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection \(DATCP\)](#) or the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) contacts you with further instructions.

For more details, visit DATCP at

[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News\\_Media/UnsolicitedSeeds.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/UnsolicitedSeeds.aspx)



Photo: Reuters





## Rotary Gardens News

### The Gardens Remain Open

Rotary Gardens summer hours continue through August, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Also continuing through August are members-only hours from 7-9 a.m. on Wednesdays. The garden asks that you stay home if you aren't feeling well, wear a mask while indoors and keep your distance from other people indoors and out. Also, contactless payment methods (membership, credit card) are preferred.

This year the entry garden features a purple, orange and lime color scheme. The reception garden is dominated by blue and silver. A special display of sunflowers

is one of the highlights of 2020. Pollinator plants draw bees and butterflies to keep the children's garden humming. And the garden art display, "Buzzworthy Bees" will be up throughout the summer.

### Volunteering

Rotary is an approved garden for MGJV volunteering, and they would welcome your help with various garden tasks. You can sign up via this link <https://signup.com/go/HycDhWY> or contact Mike Jesiolowski about your preferred time. For safety's sake, consider bringing your own tools, a mask, and hand sanitizer.

*Although volunteer hours are not required for 2021 MGJV recertification, the MG administrators would still like you to log the hours you do spend volunteering in the Online Reporting System at [wimastergardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org).*

### What's In Bloom Garden Tour on August 26

Director of Horticulture Mike Jesiolowski has been leading monthly tours of the garden. The next date for this event will be Wednesday evening, August 26, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The tour is free for Rotary members or \$10 for non-members. Limited to 20 people. Register by calling 608-752-3885 or stopping in at the Garden Gallery shop.



## Approved Volunteer Opportunities

### *Ask a Master Gardener Facebook Live Sessions*

You can still sign up to join one of these weekly on-line Q&A programs offered by Hedberg Public Library in Janesville and Aram Public Library in Delevan. To sign up online, go to <https://www.signup-genius.com/go/60b0b45acab29a7fa7-library> or email: [julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu). If you'd like to preview a program, past editions are available at each library's Facebook page.



### *Covid-Approved Garden Work*

Not much has changed in the past month on this front. Only certain types of volunteering are approved at this time, and projects must be approved in advance through our MGCV coordinator, Julie Hill. The garden must meet Covid safety protocols set by the UW, including signage, social distancing and bringing your own tools and hand sanitizer.

As of 7/8/20, approved gardens in Rock County are **Rotary Botanical Gardens**, the **pollinator garden at Hedberg Public Library**, **Paw Print Park** in Janesville and **Merrill Community Sharing Garden** in Beloit. Watch your email for more info, or contact Julie ([julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu)) about getting approval for any other garden you're interested in. You can also volunteer at approved gardens in other counties.



### **Did you know...?**

The best time of day to hand-pick the Japanese beetles bothering your garden plants is either early morning or evening. The beetles are less lively at those times, making them easier to target.

*From the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin, Volume 65, Number 13, (July 30, 2020) Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection*

## Virtual Chats in August

The virtual coffee/tea talks this month are scheduled for August 12 and 26. Julie Hill will continue to send out an email with a registration link at least two days before the meeting. Send her pictures of interesting (or mysterious) things from your own garden to share with others.

These chats give you a chance to learn what's new for MGVs in Rock and Walworth Counties. Ask or answer garden questions that come up. Enjoy the pictures from everyone. Meet some of your counterparts in Walworth County and some of the new MGVs from the level 1 class. It's always fun.



## New Continuing Ed Possibilities: Approved Books and Magazines

The updated continuing education policy from the state MGV program office now covers some reading materials. This option is nice if you don't care for the on-line experience. Here's how it works:

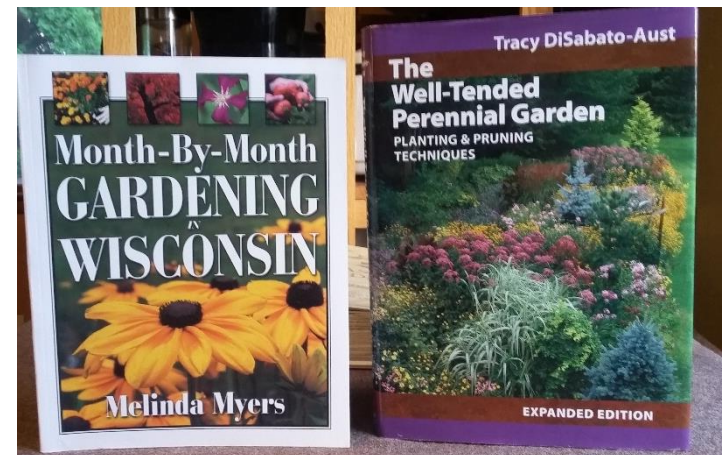
CE hours for approved books: You may claim 1 hour of continuing education (CE) per 25 pages of text. *You cannot claim more than half of your CE hours using book reading per year (5 total hours).* You don't have to read an entire book cover to cover--it's appropriate to read chapters or sections. Pages read from different books can accrue. Ex: You read 15 pages from one book and 10 pages from another book = 25 pages of reading = 1 hour of CE.

CE hours for approved periodicals: Each article you read qualifies for a quarter of an hour of CE.

The following have already been approved as suitable. They're science-based and meet MGV program guidelines.

### Books:

- Master Gardener Program Manual (Wisconsin)
- *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust
- *Decoding Gardening Advice* by Jeff Gillman & Meleah Maynard
- *Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin* by Lynn M. Steiner
- *Pollinators of Native Plants* by Heather Holm
- *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy
- *The Truth About Garden Remedies* by Jeff Gillman



- *Month By Month Gardening in Wisconsin* by Melinda Myers

Periodicals/Magazines:

- Horticulture magazine
- Northern Gardener magazine

Other books or articles MAY be suitable, but you must run them by Julie Hill for approval before you claim them for MGV continuing ed. To read more about the updated continuing education policy, go to <https://wimastergardener.org/policies/>, and scroll down to click on the “continuing education” line.



## Online Training Coming Up in August and Beyond

Here are some more options for working toward the minimum of 10 hours of continuing education you need before October 1, 2020. (Don't forget to log each training you complete in the Online Reporting System!)

**MGV Level 1 training, guest speakers.** The last two sessions for this year will take place August 6 (Lawns, Rain Gardens and Water Quality) and August 20 (Fruits). Presented live via zoom. Watch for emails from Julie Hill with registration information. Sessions are also recorded and posted at this location: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ablltc-wsqpqw6igYCZ2FokSqaxUeWT\\_R4dLUTqvW\\_k/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ablltc-wsqpqw6igYCZ2FokSqaxUeWT_R4dLUTqvW_k/edit). If you missed Mark Dwyer, Brian Huddelson, P.J. Liesch or others, you can still watch their presentations for education hours.

**MGV Level 2 training.** Find these online at [wimastergardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org), under the Learn tab. New(ish) topics: Orchards, Perennial Vegetables, Organic Gardening Techniques. Plus many others. Watch, read, take the quiz and you get 2 hours of CE.

**Wisconsin Hort Update.** A (mostly) weekly program, Fridays at 9:30 a.m., lasting no more than 1 hour, on YouTube. Extension county educators from around the state check in on phenology and plant diagnostic reports. Programs also include updates from the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic and Insect Diagnostic Lab. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Z2m-9zGHbKdm56cD5xL-B4W05hdpJP4kDf1QO\\_LLbc/](https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Z2m-9zGHbKdm56cD5xL-B4W05hdpJP4kDf1QO_LLbc/)



**Fall online workshops with Mark Dwyer** through UW-Whitewater. Mark is offering three classes in September and October: Ornamental Grasses and Late Season Perennials (Sept. 19), Bulbs in the Garden (Oct. 3), and The Winter Landscape and Late Season Garden Chores (Oct. 24). Sign up at <https://www.uww.edu/ce/workshops/personal-enrichment/gardenlandscape/gardeningsworkshops>

**Virtual Tours of Gardens and Trees on the UW-Whitewater Campus** Sign up online at <https://www.uww.edu/ce/workshops/personal-enrichment/gardenlandscape/gardenlandscapetours>  
**Gardens and Trees of the South Campus Core:** Thursday, August 13, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Heide Hall, the South Wyman Mall, Hyer Hall, Salisbury Arboretum, and Minnieska Springs is the focus of this tour.  
**Gardens and Trees of the North Campus Core:** Wednesday, August 19, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. The final tour of the summer will explore the campus vegetable garden, Minnieska Springs, Micro Prairie, and White Hall.

**U of IL Ext Four Seasons Gardening Webinars** via Zoom. All live sessions begin at 1:30 p.m. Classes are free, but you must register in advance. You can get to the website by typing in [go.illinois.edu/fourseasons](http://go.illinois.edu/fourseasons)

August 11: Adventures in Edible Landscaping

September 15: Hardscaping Basics for Patios and Retaining Walls

October 13: Creating a Bottle Terrarium

November 17: History of Forest Pest Outbreaks in North America

Earlier topics are available on Illinois Horticulture's YouTube channel. If you go to the address above, then scroll to the bottom, you'll find a link to the topics available now.

**Watch Your Email for New Announcements.** It seems that a lot of UW Extension's online programming is announced near the middle of the month and takes place near the end of the month. (For example, P.J. Leisch did a program on July 27 on Japanese beetles.) That timing doesn't allow for listing in this newsletter, so be sure to check your emails from Julie Hill about online training.





# Monk Botanical Gardens Virtual Visit, continued

Map from the master plan for Monk Botanical Gardens

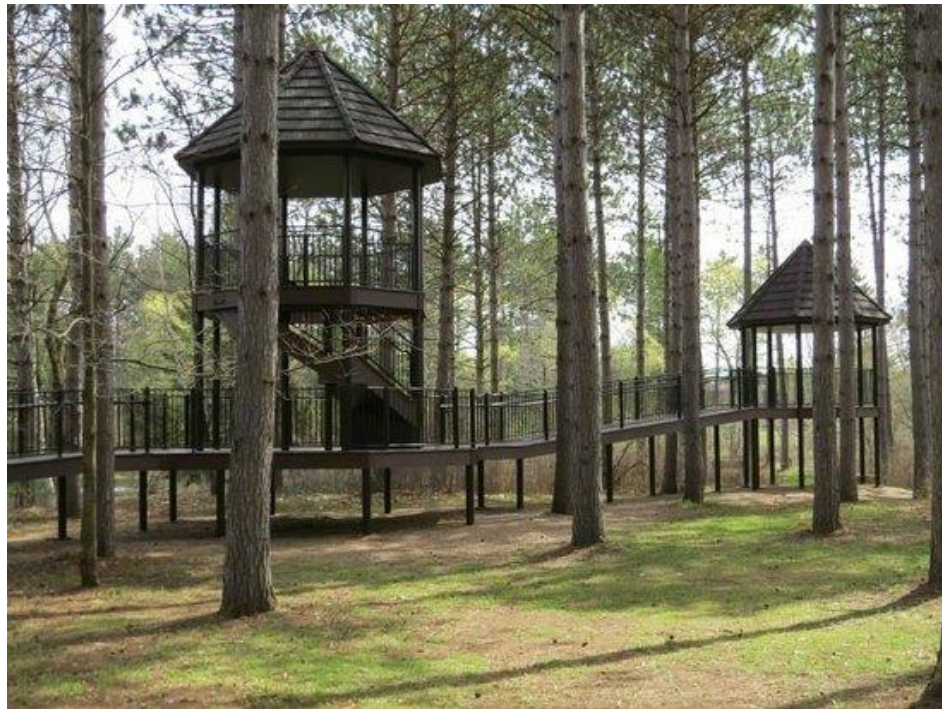
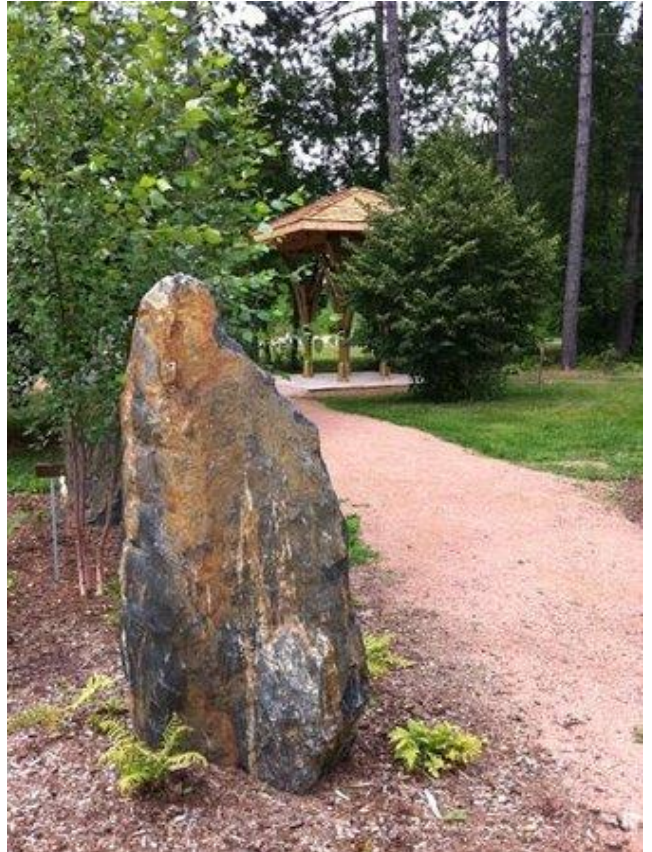




Some of the individual gardens are described below.

**The Wildflower Woods and Memory Garden** – These unique gardens are just to the right (east) of the path from the entry gate. A circular memorial plaza features a commissioned kinetic sculpture donated by Rita and the late Pat Crooks. The plaza is surrounded by a grove of diverse birches, ferns, and Marathon County blue stone boulders (right). The rest of the wildflower woods consists of native trees and understory plants, with trails paved using stabilized aggregate from Kafka Granite. It's a peaceful place to sit and read, have lunch, sip a coffee or lemonade, or simply contemplate the natural environment around you.

**The garden kaleidoscope** is located in the southeast corner of the memory garden; spin the bowl, look through one of the eyepieces and be dazzled by the swirling patterns of many colors (photo on page 1).



**Treehouse in the Piney Woods** – The Treehouse (left) is located in the east central area of the Gardens,

overlooking the pond, surrounded by pine woods. It is designed to be accessible to all. A ramp leads up to the first tower and continues on to the second. The upper story of the first tower is accessible by stairway. The Treehouse is an ideal place to take in the pond and the surrounding woods, watching for birds and other wildlife, feeling the breeze, watching the clouds scud by. It serves as a unique venue for wedding ceremonies. Children enjoy reading programs in the Treehouse. It provides excellent views of Sara's Garden and the Shade/Hosta Garden that are in

development. The Treehouse was designed by Central Wisconsin Engineers. Ruth Schuette and her family donated this addition to the gardens.



**The Kitchen Garden and "Potager",** have been completed in the south central part of the gardens, west of the entrance gate. This garden is designed to offer a complete seed-to-table experience, with area groups planting vegetables, herbs, and fruits, then tending and harvesting the produce, and finally preparing the food for serving or preserving in the Kitchen Garden's demonstration kitchen.

The kitchen is specially designed with a stainless steel prep counter with gas stove and sink, fireplace and working pizza oven. Movable bench-table combinations provide seating as well as table tops for eating and other activities. Roll-down walls allow the space to be used in inclement weather. The building is served by electrical, water, and sewer service, and contains bathrooms (one with handicapped access) on its south side. The garden plots themselves are underlain by an irrigation system.







**Meditation Garden** – Located on the east side of the gardens along the pond, the Meditation Garden is intended to be just that: a place to reflect and meditate. It's patterned after meditation gardens in Asia, with flowering crabapple trees, azalea, viburnum, and a Ginkgo grove. Oriental-style gates lead into the area, while artistically placed rocks border the pond (left and right). Only part of the Meditation garden has been developed, along the south end of the pond, but the gardens have a design for extending the Meditation Garden north along both sides of the pond. The design includes a Japanese teahouse, an arched bridge over a narrow part the pond, landscaping of the island, and a viewing platform at the edge of the pond.



**Sara's Storybook Garden** – South of the Treehouse and west of the Shade/Hosta Garden, this whimsical children's garden will be developed in memory of Sara Quirt-Sann, with the goal of inspiring the imaginations of children and their families. The garden plans call for interactive features including a shipwreck, a dry stream bed, a Lord of the Rings-style hobbit house, a vine-covered tunnel, and several imaginative seating areas ideal for quiet reading by individuals or groups. Small sculptures, topiary shrubs, and attractive shade-tolerant plantings will complete this showpiece garden.

Thousands of children, students, and adults currently participate in events all year long at the gardens, including education workshops like the one at right. Monk Gardens is an official Monarch butterfly, chimney swift and geo-caching site.

The gardens' full strategic plan can be found here – [Monk Botanical Gardens](#)

For the moment, hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is no fee to enjoy the gardens but donations are appreciated. (Suggested \$3 per person.)

In just a few short years Monk Botanical Gardens have grown into an exciting community



attraction. Located at 1800 N First Ave. on Wausau's west side on 30 acres, the gardens have become an urban sanctuary for education, appreciation of our environment, relaxation and recreation.

"What an absolutely awesome place...a magical escape into nature..." wrote a visitor on Monk's Facebook site.

To learn more about the gardens, visit their home on the Internet at [MonkGardens.org](http://MonkGardens.org).

### Mission Statement

The Monk Botanical Gardens--a 501(c)(3) organization--operates a public botanical garden and provides associated educational, recreational, and social activities for the region. The Gardens foster sustainability and environmental stewardship as they promote the appreciation and understanding of the natural environment, especially of horticulture and the enduring relationship between plants and people.

Proud Member of the American Public Gardens Association

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