


# Master Gardener Update

## January 2021

<p><b>In this Issue</b></p> <p>Chicago Botanic Garden 2</p> <p>MGV Notes &amp; Invites</p> <p>Rotary Gardens              Extra Volunteer Benefits</p> <p>Volunteer              Opportunity/Ideas Wanted</p> <p>Online Training Coming Up              in January and Beyond</p>	<p><b>Virtual Visit</b></p> <h3>Chicago Botanic Garden, Part 2</h3> <p><i>Last month we mentioned that trying to do justice to a 385 acre garden was not possible in a single visit. So our virtual visit continues.</i></p> <p>December’s newsletter introduced you to several of the many gardens and natural areas that are part of the Chicago Botanic Garden. This month, we’ll give you a glimpse of more gardens, many as you might see them at this time of year.</p> <p><b>Kleinman Family Cove</b></p> <p>Skimming 1.25 miles of shoreline, the Kleinman Family Cove is an optimal place to study aquatic plants and animals. Located on the Garden's North Lake, it features a</p> 
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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/

#### 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

boardwalk, amphitheater, protected wading area,  
and native plants.

At the Kleinman Family Cove, students analyze  
aquatic animal life, assess water quality, and  
discover why water is important to human health.  
Others explore the importance of shoreline  
management in the demonstration garden.  
Interpretive signage guides visitors to observe and  
understand aquatic wildlife and habitat.

With the nation's largest collection of aquatic  
plants—120,000 were planted in 2012 along the  
restored shoreline—and 81 acres of lakes and  
waterways, the Chicago Botanic Garden is uniquely  
positioned to teach about the importance of  
freshwater systems.

The Cove serves family members who take part in  
on-site programs, students on field trips, Camp CBG  
groups, scouts, and participants in the Garden's  
Science Career Continuum programs. More than  
1,000 teachers bring groups from early childhood  
through high school to visit the Cove annually  
through teacher development programs aimed at  
improving environmental education.

Visitors are welcome during Garden hours.

*Map of CBG on page 8, text continues on page 9.*

## CBG's Mission

*We cultivate the power of plants to  
sustain and enrich life*

The Chicago Botanic Garden opened more than 45  
years ago as a beautiful place to visit, and it has  
matured into one of the world's great living muse-  
ums and conservation science centers. Every year,  
more than one million people visit the Garden's 27  
gardens and four natural areas, uniquely situated  
on 385 acres on and around nine islands, with six  
miles of lake shoreline. The Garden also has a re-  
nowned Bonsai Collection.

The Chicago Botanic Garden has more than 50,000  
members—one of the largest memberships of any  
U.S. botanic garden. People of all ages, interests,  
and abilities participate in programs, take classes,  
and stroll the grounds year-round. Within the nine  
laboratories of the Garden's Daniel F. and Ada L.  
Rice Plant Conservation Science Center, scientists  
and graduate students conduct a wide array of  
plant research. The Garden is one of only 17 public  
gardens accredited by the American Association of  
Museums. Its Lenhardt Library contains 150,000  
volumes - including one of the nation's best collec-  
tions of rare botanical books.

## Master Gardener Volunteer Notes:

### One Last Requirement to Recertify for 2021

By now, you should have all your 2020 hours entered in the Online Reporting System at [wimastergardener.org/report-your-hours/](http://wimastergardener.org/report-your-hours/). You have one more thing to do before you're officially part of the MGV program for the coming year. Log back into the Online Reporting System and complete the required annual paperwork: Review your contact information, see if your background check and mandatory reporter training are current, review and agree to the Volunteer Expectations and Conditions of Service, agree (or not) to the photo release. The ORS should prompt you to do all this the first time you log in during 2021. You won't be able to enter any 2021 hours until you have finished these preliminaries. You aren't officially recertified until this is done.

**Please complete the Annual Enrollment process as soon as you can.**

*(Note: if you did not get all your hours for 2020 entered by noon on December 31, contact Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill, [julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu).)*



### You're Invited!

**Trivia Night, online, Tuesday, January 19 at 6:00 p.m.** How much do you know about gardening and the master gardener program? Here's a chance to test and hone your knowledge! The Walworth County MGV Association is hosting and providing some prizes, and both Rock and Walworth County MGVs are welcome. A Zoom link will be sent out a week or so before the meeting.

**Companion Planting Program, via Zoom, Thursday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m.** Julie Hill has pulled together some university-based articles for us on plant interactions and whether they really are effective at improving how our gardens grow. She will lead a discussion on companion planting myths, facts and what it all means for us as we educate others in our role as MGVs. Watch your in-box later this month for an email in which Julie shares those articles so you can read them ahead of time. This program and readings will count for education hours.



**MGV Virtual Coffee/Tea Chats** resume January 12, at 9 a.m. (second Tuesday of the month). We will resume these casual virtual meetings as a way to connect with each other, socialize and share. Julie will send out the Zoom link when it gets closer.

## Rotary Gardens: Extra Volunteer Benefits

To thank the folks who've continued to support Rotary Gardens through the craziness of 2020, the gardens are offering two special volunteer benefits:

1. Free membership: Anyone who volunteered 20 hours or more during 2020 (instead of the usual 36 hours) gets a free garden membership.
2. Holiday Light Show Special Event: All active garden volunteers have been invited to come and bring a "plus one" to a special viewing of the Holiday Light Show on Thursday, January 7, from 4:30 to 7:00. The show isn't open to the public that night--only volunteers are invited--and admission is free. RBG's volunteer coordinator, Carla Edgar, emailed the invitations on December 14, 2020. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Carla ([volunteer@rotarygardens.org](mailto:volunteer@rotarygardens.org)) to let her know you're coming.



## Volunteer Opportunity/Ideas Wanted

Our partner, Hedberg Public Library in Janesville, asked if we could do some type of winter programming that would involve take-home kits that participants could pick up at the library and then they would tune into a virtual program for the instructions/presentation. This is a great opportunity, and we could do it with other libraries as well. If you have an idea for a topic that fits this format, or if you're interested in helping put together something like this, please contact Julie Hill ([julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu)). Take home kits could be some sort of seed starting, mini greenhouse...or whatever your idea may be!



## Online Training Coming Up in January and Beyond

### Online Gardening Events, Marathon County, Beginning January 4

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator Extension Marathon County (Wausau area), is doing a series of five different gardening webinars via Zoom during January. The talks are free, but you do need to register. Days and times vary. The first program covers starting seeds indoors. The next four talks focus on vegetable gardens: site considerations, cultivar selection, garden mapping and crop rotation. Link to more info and signups through the calendar at [wimastergardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org). Northcentral Technical College, also in Marathon County is offering a mini-conference online, Garden Visions 2021, on Saturday, January 30, from 8:30 to noon. Cost for this event: \$5. The topics are Transitional Seasonal Containers with Mark Dwyer, Urban Trees with Brianna Fink and Basics of Garden Design with Janell Wehr. Register for Garden Visions 2021 at <https://www.ntc.edu/calendar/2021/01/30/garden-visions-2021-virtual-event>

### Happy Houseplants, Aram Public Library (Delavan), Jan. 5

In this program, local master gardeners will cover the basics of what it takes to keep your houseplants smiling--which will make you happy too! A 45 minute presentation plus time for your questions. **Pre-registration is required**, so go to the following website for more info and to register: <https://www.aramlibrary.org/tuesday-january-5th-6pm/> Invite your friends and share the link!

### Houseplants, Colorado State University Extension, any time

Here's a more detailed study of houseplants. Topics include the history and benefits of houseplants, ideal conditions for successfully growing plants indoors (light, temperature, humidity, water and fertilizer), common houseplants overview and indoor pests and diseases. This course is applicable to all locations and is not state specific. Registration opens January 1. The format is self-directed; you can come and go as needed and have access for a full year from the time you register. Takes about 3 hours to complete. Fee: \$60. Register at <https://www.online.colostate.edu/courses/AGBB/AGBB2015.dot?Term=Spring%202021>





## Green Thumb Gardening Classes, Dane County UW Extension

Horticulture Educator Lisa Johnson and other experts from the Dane County UW Extension are offering a new set of Green Thumb Gardening Classes, starting in January (January topics below). Each 2-hour session takes place online on a Monday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. The fee is \$12/session or \$70 to register for all of them. The link to the sign-up page on Eventbrite is <https://2021greenthumbgardeningwinter.eventbrite.com/>.

January 11: Vegetable Garden Planning and Techniques

January 25: Seed Starting

February 1: Vegetable Diseases

## Healthful Gardening Series with Melinda Myers

Melinda Myers started out as a horticulture educator here in southeast Wisconsin, and has gone on to become an author and media expert on gardening. There's no charge for any of the sessions in this series, but registration is required. Webinars take place Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. January's topics are below. For details or to register, go to [www.melindamyers.com/about-melinda/upcoming-appearances](http://www.melindamyers.com/about-melinda/upcoming-appearances)

Jan. 13, 2021 Improve Your Indoor Environment with Houseplants

Jan. 20, 2021 Grow Flavorful and Nutritional Herbs Indoors

Jan. 27, 2021 Low Maintenance Houseplants for Low Light Situations



## Fruits on Fridays Webinar Series, University of IL Extension, Starting January 15

Each 1-hour webinar in this series takes place Friday at noon. Fee: \$5/session. Topics: Jan. 15: Apples and Pears. Jan. 22: Stone Fruits (Cherries, Peaches, etc.). Jan. 29: Grapes. Get info and register at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22910>

## 2021 New Garden Trends, Olbrich Botanical Garden, via Zoom, Thursday, January 21, 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Be the first to know about the newest predicted trends for 2021 including gardening techniques and color palettes to add into next year's garden designs. Gain insight on the latest and greatest to keep your garden on trend! Fee: \$15 or \$12 for Olbrich members. Register by January 11 at <https://olbrich.doubleknot.com/event/2021-new-garden-trends-zoom-class/2763136>.



## **Bombus Among Us – Bumblebee Basics, Thursday, January 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Presented by Olbrich Botanical Garden via Zoom as part of the lecture series, A Gardener's Call. Bumble bees (*Bombus*) are by far our most charismatic and recognizable native bees. Award winning author of "Bees", Heather Holm, will illustrate the bumble bee life cycle through the growing season. Join us to learn about common Mid-western and eastern bumble bee species, their habitats, the impact climate change has on populations, and the importance of selecting the right native plants to meet the nutritional needs of the queens, workers, and males. 60 minute presentation on Zoom with 30 minute Q&A. Fee: \$15 or \$12 for Olbrich members. To register, go to <https://olbrich.doubleknot.com/event/discounted-virtual-lecture-series/2765463>.

## **Pruning Workshop from Univ. of IL Extension Offered Again January 20 or 26**

Described in last month's newsletter, or ask Mary Kay Thompson ([mastergardenermary@gmail.com](mailto:mastergardenermary@gmail.com)) for a review. More info at <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2021-01-26-intro-fruit-tree-pruning-old-and-neglected-just-planted-fruit-trees>

## **Workshops with Mark Dwyer**

This winter, the UW-Whitewater will again be hosting some online workshops featuring Mark Dwyer. Classes will use the Webex platform, which is free to download and use. February topics will be **Elements of Beautiful and Functional Landscape Design** (2/13/21, 9-10:30 a.m.) and **Sensational Shrubberies and Small Trees** (2/27/21, 9-10:30 a.m.). A third workshop, **Container Gardening Basics and Beyond** takes place March 20, 2021, also from 9-10:30 a.m. Fees are \$25/workshop or \$60 for all three. Sign up at [www.uww.edu/ce/personal-enrichment/gardenlandscape/gardeningworkshops](http://www.uww.edu/ce/personal-enrichment/gardenlandscape/gardeningworkshops)

## **New Format for Racine/Kenosha County Spring Into Gardening Seminar Registration Opens Jan. 4 for March Event**

Instead of a one-day conference, this annual Spring event has been moved to Zoom and will include two morning sessions on each of the four Saturdays in March. You can register starting January 4, and if you sign up by the end of January, the fee for all four dates (8 topics) is only \$20. After January 31, the fee increases—but it's still only \$25! To see the topics and the excellent line-up of speakers, go to <https://kenosha.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/spring-into-gardening/>.





## Chicago Botanic Garden, *continued*

For a larger version of the map to the right, go to [www.chicagobotanic.org/visit/map](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/visit/map).

### If You Go...

Chicago Botanical Garden is 385 acres of landscaped gardens displaying millions of plants and flowers in a variety of settings. The garden is located at 1000 Lake Cook Road in Glencoe, Illinois, 60022.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the gardens have modified their hours. To determine hours visit the garden's website at:

<https://www.chicagobotanic.org/visit/hours>

To speak to a representative of the gardens contact them by phone at one of the numbers below.

Customer Service: (847) 835-6801

Main: (847) 835-5440

Member: (847) 835-8215

Entry to the garden is free, but parking is \$25 unless you're a member.

### “National” Membership

If you're tempted to become a member of CBG, consider the “national” category. It's for people who live more than 75 miles from the garden, and includes full benefits at a reduced price.







The Kleinman Family Cove was made possible by the generous support of the Kleinman Family.

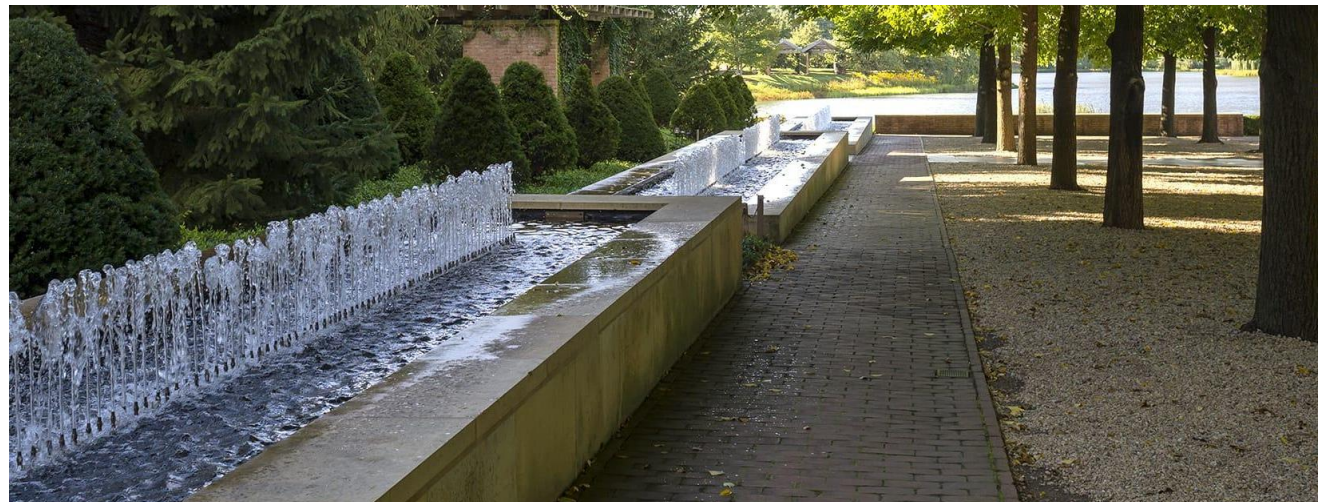
## The Esplanade

The Esplanade showcases dramatic elm allées, a pavilion lined with sheared cone topiaries, and a row of waterspouts emerging from pools of water.

Conceived by one of the greatest landscape architects of the twentieth century, [Dan Kiley](#) (1912-2004), and designed by colleague Peter Morrow Meyer, the Esplanade is one of the Chicago Botanic Garden's most public spaces, bringing visitors down to the water in a most inviting way. Kiley saw the Esplanade as an opportunity to create a great sense of place and arrival, offering visitors glimpses of vivid sweeps of color against the water and sky as they pass over the bridge outside the Visitor Center.

It is the "front door" to the Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School of the Garden, originally designed by renowned architect Edward Larabee Barnes in 1975.

Visitors stroll past the lovely Crescent, brilliant with colorful annuals sloping down to the water, offering a beautiful view.





## Evening Island

Evening Island, five acres of hillside, woodland, and meadow gardens, surrounded by lakes, reflect ever-changing highlights throughout the year. The garden is accessible by two bridges, the Arch or the Serpentine, which provide two entirely different approaches.

From the stone pathways and terraces of this garden, visitors can enjoy sweeping vistas, as well as views of the most spectacular summer sunsets. Each season is celebrated with a unique combination of horticultural treasures that peak at designated times.

Evening Island is an example of the New American Garden style of landscape design, which features vast naturalistic sweeps of low-maintenance grasses, perennials, and roses to create a living tapestry. The garden is sited, appropriately, between the formality of the English Walled Garden and the wildness of the native Prairie.



Special features of this garden are the Nautilus terrace, a Jens Jensen-inspired council ring, and the Theodore C. Butz Memorial Carillon.

*Evening Island (left) and the Butz Memorial Carillon (above)*



## Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden

The Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden demonstrates the best ways to grow the most ornamental and delicious plants for our area.

Aromatic herbs, shiny peppers, juicy grapes, and crisp apples are just a few of the 400 different edible plants grown here, in beautifully landscaped beds. Not only does this garden tempt your appetite, but your green thumb as well. Here you will learn the best berries, large fruits, vegetables, and herbs for Chicago gardens, and also the most effective gardening methods to grow them to perfection. Year-round programs, festivals, demonstrations, exhibits, and tastings in the garden provide visitors with ongoing learning experiences. Don't miss the family drop-in activities, featured during summer weekends.



Through the Garden's Windy City Youth Farm Program, seasonal produce from the Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden is used in the food in the Garden View Café. *(More on this youth program in next month's newsletter.)*

*(Left) A winter view of the buildings in the Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden where MGVs answer questions and help educate the public.*



## The Greenhouses

The Greenhouses display beautiful and fragrant flowering plants, rare plants, edible plants, utilitarian plants, seasonal plants, and houseplants from around the world.

Wet tropical rain forests and hot desert sands are two environments that have produced some of the most unusual plants on earth. Many can be viewed here, along with our warm temperate collection, in three greenhouse areas. (Note: The Greenhouses are closed temporarily.)



## The Heritage Garden

The Heritage Garden pays tribute to the botanic gardens of the past and the manner in which they organized and displayed plants. It's dedicated to Carolus Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist who established binomial nomenclature as the system of naming plants we still use today (Latin names). Modeled after Europe's first botanical garden in Padua, Italy, the Heritage Garden is a circular space, divided into sections. A large statue of Linnaeus (left) presides over the garden.

Seven perimeter beds display plants according to their geographic origin; 14 additional beds display the major plant families grouped according to their scientific classification.

In the center is a signature water feature with cascading sheets



of water and a classic physic garden, which is planted with medicinal plants from around the world. In the summer, three aquatic pools contain waterlilies, lotus, and other tropical water plants.

## Elizabeth Hubert Malott Japanese Garden

At times—when the gold ginkgo trees glow in the autumn light, for instance—it’s easy to overlook the ways in which the Japanese respect for nature and age are revealed in the Elizabeth Hubert Malott Japanese Garden. If you look closely, though, the effect is evocative, as seamless as a traditional haiku.

Larger rocks throughout the garden are partially buried, as if they have been in place forever. (Rocks are believed to be the bones of the earth, an essential part of a Japanese garden). Flowering plants—such as iris, rhododendron, and plum—have a short bloom time, reflecting the yin-yang balance between the ephemeral existence of human life and the timelessness of nature. Many of the pine trees (which represent longevity in Japanese culture) are pruned and trained to give the illusion of age.

This 17-acre lakeside garden includes three islands. Only two—Seifuto (Island of Clear, Pure Breezes) and Keiunto (Island of the Auspicious Cloud)—are open to the public. Across the lake, the inaccessible island Horaijima (Island of Everlasting Happiness) is symbolic of paradise—in sight yet elusive.







## Lakeside Gardens

Curving along the Great Basin, the Lakeside Gardens form a changing tapestry of color, texture, and movement with serpentine curves, seasonal highlights, and a juxtaposition of sun and shade plantings.

Naturalistic in style, the Lakeside Gardens include creative combinations of perennials, aquatic plants, ground covers, grasses, trees, and shrubs. A much-anticipated moment in late April to early May is the blooming of the 300 crabapple trees encircling the Great Basin and reflected in its waters.

Mass succession plantings of aquatic and semiaquatic native plants, perennials, ornamental grasses, irises, and roses guarantee a color show throughout all seasons. These plants were chosen for their ease of management and their adaptability to shoreline challenges and water fluctuations.

## Farwell Landscape Garden

The Farwell Landscape Garden displays a cross section of different kinds of gardens suitable for residential settings, and the plants appropriate to these designs.

Specialized garden displays include formal and informal herb gardens, a traditional perennial border, a rock garden, streamside gardens, an easy-to-grow mixed border, and other small-scale landscaping ideas for Midwest gardens.

Tough, low-maintenance, but still quite showy plants have been featured in the easy-to-grow area to inspire hands-off gardeners.





A meandering path, with pools and streams, creates a pleasant stroll through diverse and beautiful settings. These garden tableaux offer home gardeners ideas for shade- and sun-loving plants.

## McDonald Wood

Under a canopy of native oaks, eastern bluebirds nest in hollow trees and rare butterflies hover over patches of lake sedge—all hopeful signs in this fragile ecosystem, a treasured piece of a larger oak woodland that flourished in the Midwest over a century ago.

In an ongoing effort to protect and restore the McDonald Woods, Chicago Botanic Garden ecologists and

volunteers fight off invasive species such as buckthorn and garlic mustard. They also collect and scatter the seeds of native grasses, sedges, and wildflowers; the intent is to keep the 100-acre Woods as natural as possible, reminiscent of the days when early settlers described the land as a place of open oak groves with a carpet of grasses and wildflowers beneath spreading tree branches. The Woods is home to at least seven state-listed threatened or endangered plant species—northern cranesbill, forked aster, dwarf raspberry, bent-seeded hop sedge, brome hummock sedge, small sundrops, and dog violet—and is a site of critical scientific research on endangered species and habitat restoration.



*Look for our final installment on the Chicago Botanic Garden in next month's newsletter!*

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