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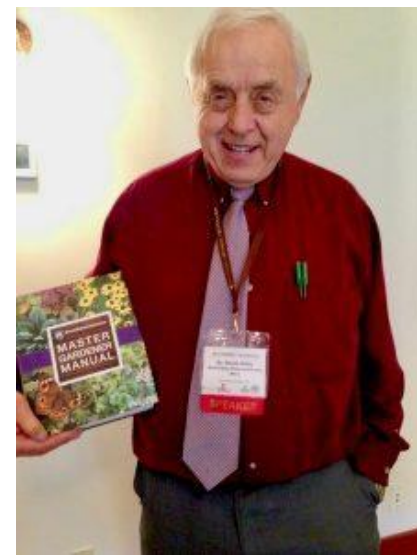
More Training Coming Up in January and Beyond

Where did the Master Gardener program originate, and when?

So, where, exactly, did the Master Gardener program come from? We know what it is today, but what about back in the dim, dark recesses of time when it emerged from two counties in Washington state to become the program it is now? What follows is a compilation of three papers written by its progenitors, newspaper articles, snippets from local newsletters, Washington State University (WSU) staff biographies, a well verified piece from Wikipedia, and a few other sources, all vetted, all reliable. I have taken facts from these sources and stitched together what I hope will be an informative article that will introduce you to the heroes of this great endeavor – including the unsung heroes and heroines who worked long, hard hours and received little recognition for their efforts.

(Note: I had hoped to provide photographs of all the folks mentioned in this article. I found some pictures easily and those are included. Unfortunately, however, others were far more difficult to find, and some completely unavailable.)

Let me impress this upon you. Today what has been called (and will be for the duration of this piece) the Extension Master Gardener Program (EMG), has spread over the US, the District of Columbia, Canada, the UK, and South Korea.



David Gibby

Websites

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

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

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:**
mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu

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

As of 2018 there were nearly 90,000 certified Master Gardeners. According the official website (link shown below), "On average, active certified EMG volunteers donate 60 hours per year. In 2018 volunteers donated over 5.6 million hours to their local Master Gardener programs." They made face-to-face contact with 8.6 million individuals.

So how did it come about?

The EMG program was the brainchild of two overworked Extension agents, David Gibby, and Bill Scheer. Washington State University Cooperative Extension traditionally assigned horticulture faculty to county offices as part of the Agriculture, Home Economics and 4-H outreach education programs. The emphasis of the horticultural programs was crop production. It was not until rapid urban growth and the burgeoning interest in gardening that Extension began to develop programs emphasizing urban horticulture.

In 1971 Gibby and Scheer had started separate assignments in the major metropolitan areas represented by King and Pierce Counties. They focused respectively on urban and commercial horticulture. Public demand for information about plant problems was so intense that it made educational programming for either of them virtually impossible. They needed to find a solution.

Initially administrators suggested that getting information out via mass media would solve the problem. The result was that television and radio gardening shows put on by Gibby served only to make the public aware that the extension office was the place to get help. Consequently Gibby and Scheer explored other avenues to most effectively address the needs of the backyard gardener. Among approaches they considered was the concept of attracting and training volunteers to serve the urban audience. This appeared to be the most feasible option as it would free Gibby and Scheer from constantly reacting to public demand and allow them to be proactive in fulfilling educational needs. Recruitment would require a careful selection process.

So what came next?

From Gartenmeister to Master Gardener – a title that worked

An appropriate and distinguished title would be necessary. As both Gibby and Scheer had worked in Germany acquiring language proficiency and an understanding of the culture, they knew that Germans bestow titles for hard-earned proficiency levels in various crafts.

Continues on page 14



RPMGA Notes

Dues Reminder

Thanks to everyone who has already sent in their dues for 2022. If you haven't yet, please write a check payable to RPMGA and send it to our treasurer, Deb Grams, along with your current contact information (street address, email address, best phone number). RPMGA dues are \$15 for the year. If you want to join the state association, you can include their dues in the same check with ours and we'll send them on. WIMGA dues are \$5. Email Deb if you need her street address: debgrams@yahoo.com

A Quick Report from Our December Get-Together

When we met on December 16, we had lots of planning questions to consider. Here are some quick answers to many of them:

Do we want to join Walworth and Jefferson Counties to host a statewide WIMGA conference in 2023? **No, we're not prepared to make a group commitment, but we'll promote any related volunteer opportunities if they go ahead with hosting.**

Aside from the WIMGA conference hosting, are there other things we want to do together with Walworth and Jefferson County MGVs? **A smaller, more local 3-county education day was suggested. Other ideas are welcome.**

Should we plan for the bus trip to Seed Savers Exchange in 2022 or wait another year? **Let's wait. Covid's still too scary.**

Members prefer the Zoom platform to other online group meeting options. **We should purchase a Zoom Professional license for this year.**

Should RPMGA buy liability insurance? **We should definitely consider it, but we need more info. More data is expected from WIMGA. Let's wait for that before making a final decision.**

Programs for 2022? **Still getting input, but watch your email for a January program featuring...us!**

You can find a more detailed report on the meeting in our shared Google drive. Need help accessing it? Contact Mary Kay Thompson mastergardenermary@gmail.com or Sue Wood woodslibrarymedia@gmail.com.

Statewide MG Program Notes

MG Program Changes for 2022—We Made It to January 1. Now What?

As of now, the Online Reporting System (ORS) is shut down while the state program office makes the switch to the new organization-based (rather than project-based) reporting system. You don't have to complete an "annual enrollment" this year, but there are some things we all need to do:

Try getting into the UW's online classroom software. The UW uses Canvas software for online courses. You'll need to be able to get into Canvas to take the new Onboarding course before you begin volunteering this year, so try signing in now. The web address is <https://canvas.wisc.edu/> Please note that this is not the same as signing into ORS. If you don't know your NetID and password, use this link to fix that:

[Request NetID](#)

Take the Onboarding Lite course (even if you took it last year). It's expected to be available in Canvas on Thursday, January 6, but you should get an email when it's up and running. You have to complete the course before volunteering. It covers what's new and what's the same in the program going forward. You can claim 5 hours of continuing education for completing it, though it probably won't take you that long.

Read and accept the new "Terms and Conditions" of the MGV program. You can read them on the mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu web site or in the Onboarding course. Then, after January 10, go into the ORS to accept. This, also, must be done before you begin volunteering.

If you haven't been getting email from the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program, check your info in ORS. When it comes back online January 10, you should be able to sign in and check your address, email and other contact information.

Send the program office information about where you expect to volunteer in 2022. To help get the ORS switched over to organizations instead of projects, we're being asked to send in data about our sponsoring organizations. The information they're requesting is the name of the organization; its mailing address; its county; its web or social media address; and your contact person's name, title, email and phone

number. So gather the info first, then go to the site below and enter it. Don't worry if someone else may have already entered it. The office will winnow out repeat submissions.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SAuJ6vdWHWNZSgs20MokQOJy9cDOEBRIAqxKbFqLsG4/viewform?edit_requested=true

Begin entering your hours in ORS after it comes fully back online (expected date: around February 1). You may need to continue to submit organization information as you volunteer for other groups throughout the year.



**Advanced Training--Plant Diagnostics:
The Step By Step Approach to Identifying Plant Problems**

From the state MG program office. This course teaches you steps you can practice to try and identify plant problems in your own garden. Learn a simple framework for plant diagnostics that will teach you how the process works. We also teach you what resources to use and when to reach out to experts for help. This is a great course for someone who wants to learn about the basics of plant diagnostics. You won't come out of this course a fully-fledged diagnostician, but you'll be better prepared to troubleshoot when things go wrong with your plants-and empowered to reach out for help when you need it! The fee is \$49. For more details or to sign up, see the course web page at <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/articles/plant-diagnostics-course/>

**Botanical Talk: Creating Year-Round Beauty in the Garden,
Wednesday, January 12, 6-7:00 p.m., online via Zoom**

Gardens can provide us with year-round interest and pleasure. Having a garden that delights in winter requires a little thought and planning in the summer. Come together, virtually, for a conversation with Chanticleer Garden Assistant Horticulturist Chris Fehlhaber, about the planning and practices that will lead to a garden that enchants all year. Participants will learn which plants bring year-round interest, autumn practices and techniques, and tips for attracting birds and wildlife. \$10/non-members, \$7/members – deadline to sign up is January 11. The Zoom

link will be emailed to participants on January 12. Registration information at <https://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/event/creating-year-round-beauty-in-the-garden/>



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

January 13, Hardscaping to Enhance Your Garden or Landscape, 6-7:30 p.m., \$12/\$15. Registration deadline: January 6.

January 14, Healthy Houseplants, 6-8 p.m., online, \$18/\$22. Registration deadline: January 6.

January 20, 2022 Garden Trends, 2-3:15 p.m., online, \$14/\$18. Registration deadline: January 13.

January 25, A Year in the Garden, 6-7:30 p.m., online, \$16/\$20. Registration deadline: January 18.

January 27, Reimagining Beauty/Native Habitats by Design, 7-8:30 p.m. online, \$12/\$15. Registration deadline: January 25.

February 1, Let's Be Salt Wise!, 6-7:30 p.m., online, \$12/\$15. Registration deadline: January 25.

February 2, Gypsy Moths, 6-7:15 p.m., online, \$12/\$15. Registration deadline: January 26.

February 7, Weather Basics, 6-8 p.m., \$12/\$15. Registration deadline: January 31.

February 9, Common Butterflies of Wisconsin: Swallowtails, 6-7 p.m., online, \$14/\$18. Registration deadline: February 2.

February 10, Structure to Seedheads--Winter Interest From Large to Small, 6-7:30 p.m., online, \$16/\$20. Registration deadline: Feb. 3

Seed Starting, Monday, January 10, 6-8:00 p.m., online

If you are a new gardener, or just looking for some tips on starting seeds, this lecture will cover it. We will talk about purchasing and storing seeds, seed-starting media, planting, lights, fertilizer and more! You will get an electronic copy of a handout on optimal soil temperatures for the germination of many crops. The speaker is Lisa Johnson, Dane County Horticulture Educator. Fee: \$12. Info and registration link:

<https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/winter-2022-vegetable-gardening-series-online/>



Canadian Gardens, Tuesday, January 11, noon-1:00 p.m., Edgerton Hospital

Join Landscape Professional Mark Dwyer as he focuses on the beautiful—and perhaps not widely known--gardens of Canada. Guests are invited to purchase lunch from the cafe, and enjoy complementary coffee and cookies. All guests will be entered in a drawing to win a gift card! Free. Registration is encouraged, but not required: <https://www.edgertonhospital.com/events/> (Note: this class may not qualify for continuing education hours.)



Dealing with Winter Wildlife Damage, Wednesday, January 12, 3-4 p.m., online via Zoom

Wildlife can be fun to watch, but wild animals can also be very destructive to the home landscape. Join University of Illinois Extension's Good Growing team to learn about six mammals that may be causing damage to your yard or garden this winter and some tips to help protect your landscape. In this session we will discuss deer, rabbits, racoons, squirrels, voles, and mice. Free, but registration required: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=24388>

Adaptive Gardening Techniques and Tools, Thursday, January 13, 1-2 p.m., Edgerton Hospital

Traditional gardening, while rewarding, can become physically challenging at times. Mark Dwyer will share tips on how to approach gardening in ways that are easier on your body while delivering the same fulfillment and beauty. Ann Rudel, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, will also be on hand to demonstrate ways to ease the strain on the body. Free. Registration requested, but not required: <https://www.edgertonhospital.com/events/>

The Recent IPCC Climate Report, Thursday, January 13, 1-2 p.m., online

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group 1 recently came out with a report detailing the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system and climate change. Come learn what the report says and what it means for our future. Presenter: Abigail Garofalo. Free. Register by Jan 10 at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24580>



America's Public Gardens: A Resource for Native Plants, Thursday, January 13, 6 p.m., online via Zoom

From Wild Ones. Take a journey to several of the nation's public gardens. From gardens that grow exclusively native plants to others that have worked them into their diverse collections, get an in-depth look into how public gardens can help inform and influence your design and maintenance practices. The speaker, Matthew Ross, is a horticulturist, Wild Ones National Board Member and Director of Continuing Education at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Free and open to the public. Register at <https://wildones.org/ross-public-gardens-registration/> Note: check out the other recorded webinars available under the webinars tab at wildones.org.

Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden, Thursday, January 20, 6-7:00 p.m., online via Zoom

Join Mark Dwyer, landscape professional, and explore the history and purpose of the Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden with a focus on the amazing plants, colorful displays, volunteers and future plans! This is a great introduction to see if you want to volunteer at the garden. Free. Registration requested: <https://www.edgertonhospital.com/events/2022/january/the-edgerton-hospital-healing-garden-zoom-lecture-series/>

Indigenous Foodways, Saturday, January 22, 10-11:30 a.m., online via Zoom

Allen Centennial Garden's Winter Class Series begins with speaker Dan Cornelius, Outreach Specialist, Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center, UW Madison Law School. "Indigenous Foodways" grows out of Dan's work with the Intertribal Agricultural Council to bring a diverse array of historic seeds back to indigenous communities, to reconnect with the land through what we eat. Since 2019 cross-campus collaborations

have resulted in the establishment of an Indigenous Research Garden and sugarbush at the Arboretum. These collaborations are part of a larger effort to better incorporate indigenous perspectives and practices into the campus landscape and course curriculum. His focus is the relationship between the land and indigenous peoples prior to European colonization. Fee: \$10. Register by Jan. 19 at [January 22, 2022 – Indigenous Foodways](#)

Intro to Vegetable Garden Crops and Specialized Gardening Techniques, Monday, January 24, 6-8:00 p.m., online

We will cover cultural techniques for growing various popular vegetables and will briefly discuss some specialized gardening techniques such as square foot, straw bale and lasagna gardening. Speaker: Lisa Johnson, Dane County Horticulture Educator. Fee: \$12. Info and registration link: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/winter-2022-vegetable-gardening-series-online/>

Spring Ephemerals, Tuesday, January 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m., online via Zoom

These bulbs get their name because of their quick appearance in the environment in the early spring, flowering even before leaves have fully grown on deciduous trees. Horticulture Educator Gemini Bhalsod will guide you through the interesting diversity of spring ephemerals and how to grow them in your yard. Free, but registration required. Sign up at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24807>





When Winter Turns to Spring in Your Garden, Tuesday, January 25, 6-7:30 p.m. , Hedberg Public Library, Janesville

Learn how to get yourself and your gardens ready for this year’s growing season, no matter what type of gardening you do! Identify the top 10 steps you need to take to help your plants and gardens be successful, including planning, proper plant selection and care, and how to approach problems when they happen. Whether you grow plants in containers or in a yard, you will benefit from this program! Presented by Rock Prairie Master Gardener Volunteers. Free. No registration necessary.

Plants and Human Well-Being, Thursday, January 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m., online via Zoom

Since antiquity, we have co-evolved with plants and their derivative products, with each exerting a domesticating force on the other. For example, it’s impossible to think of our modern life without cotton, sugar, bread, coffee, and wood. Yet we may forget they all derive from plants discovered, domesticated, bred, and farmed for millennia in a never-ending pursuit to improve our wellbeing. UW Horticulture Department professor Irwin Goldman explores major points of intersection between plants and human wellbeing from a horticultural point of view. He attempts to understand the beauty and functionality of plants for humankind while simultaneously appreciating the tremendous humanity footprint that our pursuit of these plants has left on the planet. Hosted by the Waunakee Public Library. Free, no registration required. Follow this link to access the program on the 27th: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82328439925>

Gardening with Ferns and Mosses, Saturday, January 29, 9-10:30 a.m., online

The UW-Whitewater kicks off its winter Online Gardening Series featuring Mark Dwyer. Mark says there are a wide range of hardy ferns that will add color, texture and form in our gardens. By also utilizing moss as a groundcover in select areas, your shaded spaces will be magically transformed! We'll discuss the best ferns for our area and examine ways of establishing and caring for moss in the garden. Master gardeners may only claim a half hour of continuing ed for this session. Fee: \$25. Registration required by January 27 at noon. Sign up at <https://www.uww.edu/ce/gardenlandscape/onlineworkshop>



Growing Hope: The Local and Global Youth Garden Movement, Saturday, January 29, 10-11:30 a.m., online via Zoom

In school and youth gardens throughout Madison, and around the world, young people are growing connections to food, nature, and community. Join us to learn about this growing local and global movement, and to hear inspiring stories about how young people are caring for the land while building enduring bonds with the plants and animals they tend in the garden. Part of the Allen Centennial Garden Winter Class Series. Speaker: Nathan Larson, Senior Outreach Specialist, Planning and Landscape Architecture Department, UW-Madison. Fee: \$10. Register by Jan. 26 at this link: [January 29, 2022 – Growing Hope: The Local and Global Youth Garden Movement](#)

Vegetable Garden Planning and Organic Techniques, Monday, January 31, 6-8:00 p.m., online

Organic and Small Farmer Outreach Specialist Claire Strader will get you ready for vegetable gardening with strategies and tips for advanced gardeners as well as newer gardeners. She will talk about timing of crops, spacing, building productive soils, using cover crops, and more. You will leave with at least four electronic copies of handouts full of great information. Fee: \$12. Info and registration link: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/winter-2022-vegetable-gardening-series-online/>



Gardening in the Air, Saturday, February 5, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., online

Experts from the U of IL Extension and IA State U Extension present an online gardening conference: 3 different tracks (Wildlife, Houseplants, or Spring Trends), with three sessions on each topic. Free, but donation appreciated. For detailed descriptions of each session, or to sign up, go to <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24246> Registration required.

Where did the Master Gardener program originate, and when? *, continued*

The top proficiency level in horticulture is designated as “Gartenmeister”, a title that resonated. They anglicized the term to “Master Gardener”, a title that would be appropriate for volunteers who had received extensive training.

The volunteer concept was discussed many times before it was taken to various subject matter specialists at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center (WWREC) at Puyallup with disappointing results. The specialists initially rejected the idea of training volunteers.

2022 is the
50th Anniversary
of the first experimental
Master Gardener training!

To test the viability of the concept, Gibby, in 1972, organized a trial clinic at the Tacoma Mall featuring specialists to see if the public demonstrated interest in receiving gardening information. In preparation he wrote articles for the Tacoma papers and aired spots on television. The results were far better than expected. They were now convinced and committed to help train volunteers. Gibby was now able to take the project to the next level. In the meantime Scheer continued his work in commercial horticulture, but helped teach EMG classes for the next 20 years. Gibby had arranged for Steven Lorton, of Sunset Magazine, to cover the trial clinic. Lorton wrote an article for the Northwest edition under the caption “Wanted: Expert

Gardeners to Become Master Gardeners.” There were about 600 initial inquiries.

Gibby interviewed all the applicants and accepted 300. (Recollections vary as to how many people were actually trained. A fair figure would be about 200. Ed Hume, media gardening expert, was an honorary trainee. He provided valuable help in advertising the program, and continues to do so.)

The first curriculum

Subject matter was to include the culture of ornamental plants, lawns, vegetables and fruits; control of plant diseases, insects and weeds; and the safe use of pesticides. Sessions were to be held eight hours per day, one day a week, for five weeks. At the end of training, volunteers were required to pass subject matter exams, as well as an exam for pesticide licensing by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. EMGs were then committed to volunteering a specified number of hours working with the gardening public.

Specialists from WWREC and county faculty participated in teaching. The first training session in King County took place at the Renton

Library, and in Pierce County at the Tacoma Grange Hall during the spring on 1973. Later that same year training was provided in the eastern Washington city of Spokane, making the new program a statewide endeavor.

Funds in the amount of \$500 were needed to stock the first clinics staffed by Master Gardeners, but Gibby's application was turned down by University Extension administration. A second submittal written by Gibby, and signed by Arlen Davison, Extension Plant Pathologist at the WWREC, was eventually approved.

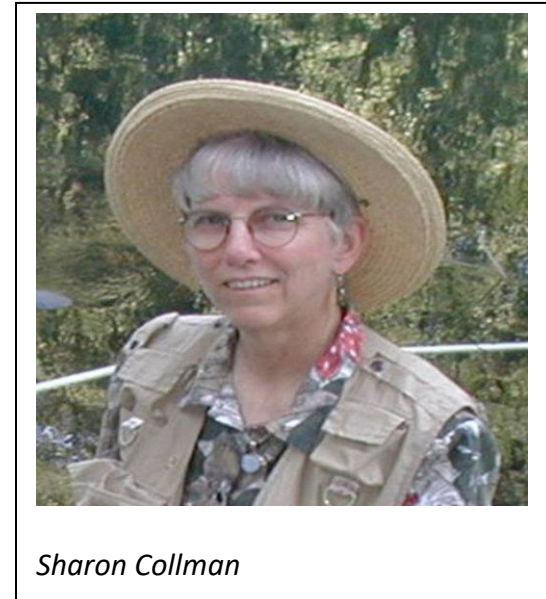
The program begins to spread

Near the end of 1973 Gibby resigned from WSU to take leadership in ornamental nursery production with Weyerhaeuser Company. Sharon Collman, who had been working as program assistant with Gibby, became King County Extension Agent and continued managing the program for several years. She concentrated on training master gardeners in diagnosis of plant problems and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). She is credited with building a solid foundation for the program, as well as promoting and expanding it. She held the program together under the hardship of long hours during a time of budgetary constraints. She also helped other extension officers establish master gardener programs in Washington and in other states. During this period the Pierce County program was ably guided by Nancy Hibbing, a program assistant.

About a year after Collman took over, Blair Adams (deceased) was hired to replace Gibby in the Area position. In 1976, when Adams became the Extension Horticulture Specialist at the WWREC in Puyallup, George Pinyuh was hired for the Area position and remained there until his retirement in 1994.

In the meantime, Bernard Wesenberg (deceased), Extension Ornamental Horticulture Specialist at WWREC, promoted the EMG program nationwide and took on a significant coordinating role.

Davison (who had helped Gibby secure his initial \$500 funding for the first clinics)—by then State Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Leader and later WWREC Superintendent—continued to promote the program within administration and was responsible for funding Program Assistants in various counties.



Sharon Collman

During the long tenure of Pinyuh as the Area Extension Agent (and Faculty Excellence Award recipient), the program continued to expand in number of volunteers, number of plant clinics and new volunteer roles. He also established the individual County and State Master Gardener Foundations. The WSU Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Resource Center at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture is another of his accomplishments. He continues to teach EMG volunteers and works at demonstration gardens.



Mary Robson, after five years of being a program assistant with Pinyuh, has held the Area Extension faculty position since 1994. She worked closely with Pinyuh to improve program efficacy and establish a good working relationship with the University of Washington.

It is not possible to name all who have made significant contributions to this program over the years. The list includes many faculty members and dedicated program assistants, who started EMG programs statewide and deserve much credit. As time progressed, the program received the credibility and recognition it well deserved.

In order to better manage the urban horticulture educational efforts statewide, a Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator position was funded. Van Bobbit held this post from 1989 to 1998, attaining excellent results by promoting the program around the state and building further support from WSU administration. The position is currently held by Rod Tinnemore, who assumed leadership in 2001 and who continues to work to ensure program sustainability.

Success begins at home

There are now at least 3100 volunteers across Washington state. They staff plant clinics in 105 communities at 171 locations. Each Master Gardener receives approximately 60 hours of training and gives back a minimum of 50 hours of free public service in horticultural assistance to his or her community. Some have served actively in the program for more than 20 years.

The EMG program model has been adopted by various other disciplines of University Extension such as food preservation, clothing and textiles, animal husbandry and resource conservation, e.g. Master Food Preserver and Safety Advisors, Clothing and textile advisors, Livestock Advisors, Master Composters, Beach Watchers and Waste Warriors.

For more information visit the EMG website

<https://mastgardener.extension.org/>

<https://mastgardener.extension.org/about-us-2/extension-master-gardener-national-committee/>

Mary Kay Thompson

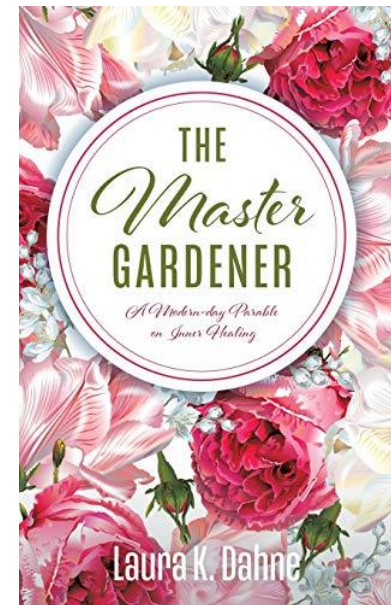
Master Gardeners in Fiction

Here are a couple of reads that might be fun!



Master Gardener: A novel about threats from BIG AG, Magic Seeds from the Amazon, saving the Monarch butterfly, and people in love.

The Master Gardener is a lively, modern-day parable about a surprise visitor who shows up within the high and impenetrable walls of a garden tended by a lonely gardener whose life is plagued with fear and loneliness.



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).

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