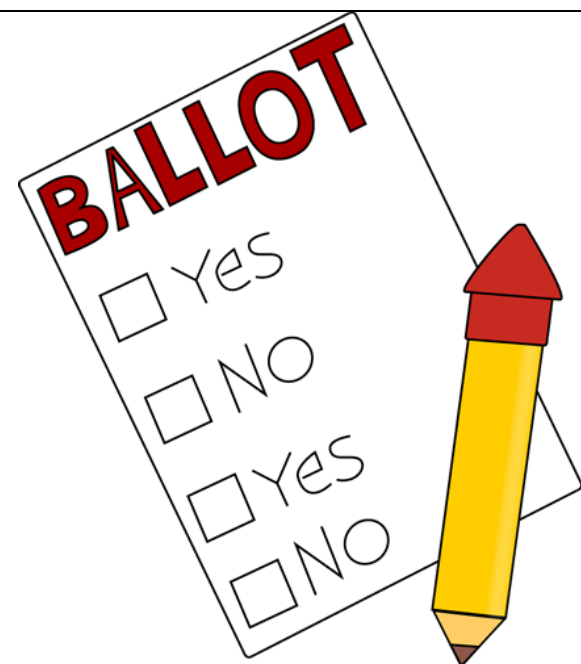




Master Gardener Update

July 2021

<p>In this Issue</p> <p>RPMGA Incorporation Meeting</p> <p>Rock MGV Directory Is Out</p> <p>Get Together: Tour of Congdon Gardens</p> <p>Rotary Garden News and Volunteer Opportunities</p> <p>State MGV Office News: Temporary Halt on Approvals of New or Expanded MGV Projects</p> <p>More Training Coming Up in July and Beyond</p>	<p>Special Announcement:</p> <h3>RPMGA Incorporation Vote Set for August 5</h3> <p>Last month we said that the UW was requiring master gardener associations to become legal entities by the end of this year, and that RPMGA members would need to vote on exactly what kind of legal entity we'd like to become.</p> <p>To do that, we've called a general membership meeting for Thursday, August 5, at 5:30 p.m. We'll meet once again in the basement community room at Premier Bank. The address of the bank is 1400 Black Bridge Road (located just behind the McDonalds on Milton Ave. in Janesville).</p> <p>Recommended Action: Use WI Section 181 to Incorporate</p> <p>The RPMGA advisory group looked into a variety of options for the organization, from disbanding to becoming a charitable/educational corporation under IRS code 501(c)3. We will discuss the various options at the meeting on August 5, but the advisory group is recommending that we file as a non-stock, non-profit corporation under Wisconsin statute 181. This choice allows us to keep our membership structure, gives us</p>
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<p>Websites</p> <p>For Rock County MGV info: rock.extension.wisc.edu/ OR fyi.extension.wisc.edu/ mgvrockco/</p> <p>MGV Hours Reporting: mastergardener. extension.wisc.edu/ report-your-hours/</p> <p>RPMGA Blog: rpmga.blogspot.com</p> <p>RPMGA on Facebook: Hit control/click on this link: RPMGA on Facebook</p> <p>Rotary Gardens: rotarybotanicalgardens. org</p> <p>Wisconsin Master Gardener Program: mastergardener. extension.wisc.edu</p> <p>Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA): wimga.org</p>	<p>the legal status the UW is asking for, lets us keep our treasury, and protects individual association members from any liability that could arise in connection with the group’s actions or activities. It’s also very reasonably priced (\$35 to file the incorporation papers and \$10/year fee to file the required annual reports).</p> <p>Board of Directors Required</p> <p>As part of the incorporation process, we have to provide the state of WI with the names of the individuals on our board of directors. Unfortunately, we don’t currently have a board of directors. We’ve been operating informally for the past six or seven years. If the proposal to incorporate is approved, we’ll also have to vote on a board of directors.</p> <p>WI Section 181 specifies that we must have a minimum of 3 directors. RPMGA’s bylaws don’t call for a board of directors, per se, but do call for 4 officers for the association. Here is the slate of people who have volunteered to serve as initial directors, and the positions they’ve agreed to fill:</p> <p>President: Ruth Flescher Vice President: Mary Kay Thompson Secretary: Susan Wood Treasurer: Deb Grams</p> <p>We can take alternate nominations for the board during the meeting on August 5. If none are offered, we’ll vote on this slate of candidates as a single group.</p> <p>Hope to See Many of You There!</p> <p>We’ll be happy to answer any questions you may have about the incorporation options, Section 181, the board of directors or other items related to this process at the meeting on August 5.</p> <p>If you’d like answers before then, the best person to contact is Ruth Flescher (608-835-3467 or yafello2@gmail.com).</p> <p>If at all possible, please come to vote on the future of our local association.</p>
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Rock County MGV Directory Is Out

Check your email. If the directory of your fellow master gardener volunteers who report in Rock County isn't already in there, it will be within a day or two. The file will come in .pdf format so you can print it out if you prefer, or you can save it as an electronic file on your computer, phone or other device.

This version is pretty bare bones—not much more than names and contact information. But even at this basic level, it can be a really useful tool. Looking for another MGV in a particular area—say, Beloit? Check your directory. Want to visit a public garden, but don't want to go alone? Check your directory for likely partners in crime. Looking for someone to help with your MGV project? Again, check the directory. But we hope future editions will contain additional information that will make it even more useful. Give some thought to what information would be most helpful to have (main interests as a volunteer, perhaps?) and we'll try to include that info down the road.

Anyone Up for a Garden Tour? Let's Start with Congdon Gardens!

Now that Covid restrictions have eased substantially, RPMGA will begin to sponsor events and tours again. We'd like to start with a trip over to Delevan to explore one of the newest public gardens in our area: Congdon Gardens.

It seems an especially appropriate place to start after Covid, considering the garden's vision: "Congdon Gardens is striving to create a sanctuary through horticulture and art to fulfill a basic human need – achieving inner peace. It is a haven for relaxation, reflection, and beauty. These are the elements to unleash the power and joy we all hold within. By carrying forth the social and environmental benefits derived from the gardens,



we want to be known as *the* soul of our community and the surrounding area and to create *the* destination for walkers, gardeners, and thinkers of all ages.”

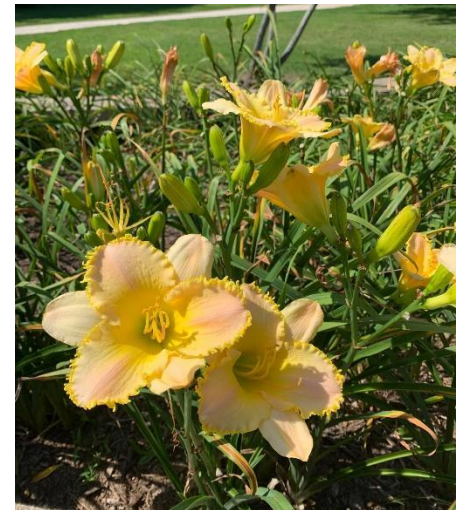
The individual gardens include a peony & daylily garden (daylilies should be blooming well this month), a native garden designed by Roy Diblik, the Peace Garden featuring perennials with a rock fountain, the red, white and blue Independence Garden, and more. This will likely be a self-guided tour.

Date: Thursday, July 15

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$0—Admission is free.

Location: Meet at Congdon Gardens: 1424 Hobbs Drive, Delevan, WI. The gardens are on the east side of Delevan, at the northwest corner of the intersection of Hwy 50 and Interstate 43. Specific directions can be found at: <http://congdongardens.org/our-gardens/garden-and-plant-list/>



Next Coffee Chat: Watch Your Email for Date and Time

The monthly on-line get together for Rock and Walworth County MGVs usually takes place on the second Tuesday of the month. For July, that would be Tuesday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m. Watch your email for a confirmation (or a different date) from our Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill. The email will contain the link to access the Zoom meeting.

July at Rotary Botanical Gardens

Botanic Tour of Rotary's Prairie with MGV Mary Berve, Thursday, July 8, 6:00-7:00 p.m., live at Rotary Gardens

Walk through the Tall Grass Prairie at Rotary Botanical Gardens and identify some of the prairie plants and talk about how the Native Americans and Pioneers used these plants. Learn about the history of prairies in the United States. Find out what changes brought about the disappearance of the prairies. Discuss the benefits of planting prairie plants in your garden. Get an in depth look in the prairie and learn about specific plants. Numbers are limited; register before July 7. Fee: \$7 RBG members/\$10 non-members. Register online, by phone (608-752-3885) or at the Gardens. Meet at the prairie near the Horticulture Center.

What's In Bloom Tour, Wednesday, July 21, 6-7 p.m., live at Rotary Gardens

RBG Director of Horticulture, Michael Jesiolowski will walk participants around the gardens and describe what is in bloom. Numbers limited, so registration is required. Fee: \$0 for RBG members, \$10 for non-members. Register online, by phone (608- 752-3885) or at the Gardens.



Garden Art Fundraiser: Caterpillars on Display

Rotary's annual Garden Art project features caterpillars this year. More than 30 local individuals painted and decorated the basic caterpillar forms. The 32 caterpillars are now installed at Rotary and will remain on display throughout the summer. At the end of the season, they'll be auctioned off to help raise funds for the garden. Stop by and enjoy the artistry and consider coming to the auction to take your favorite home!

Volunteer at Rotary: Garden Help Needed

Rotary needs people to help complete its daily gardening duties; please use the signup sheet to schedule your days: <https://signup.com/go/PfKXtDt>. The signups are for morning shifts only, 8-11:30 a.m.; if you want to work in the afternoons, contact Michael Jesiolowski to arrange that: michael.jesiolowski@rotarygardens.org. Please arrive promptly so the scheduled duties for the day can be completed. If you do have to come late, please get in touch with a staff member using a hand radio. Newly added to the sign-up site: 'Sunday Watering Crew.' This may be a great way for some volunteers to get back into 'volunteer-mode' after COVID since Rotary is only asking for 3 people per Sunday. <https://signup.com/go/PfKXtDt>



State MGV Program Announces Temporary Hold on New Projects

By now you've probably heard that, effective immediately, we're not able to begin any NEW master gardener projects. This decision is part of the state office's efforts to shift the MGV program from being an amalgam of county programs into a single, coherent state-wide program. They'll use this temporary halt—which occurs in a year when we have no minimum requirement for volunteer hours—to develop “simple” guidelines for local MGV coordinators to use to determine whether each new volunteer project helps further the MGV program's goals. According to Mike Maddox, “Our intention is not to implement more rules, but to clarify them and make them more consistent.”

The temporary halt does NOT apply to existing projects *to the extent they already have approval*. If gardening at a specific location is already in the Online Reporting System (ORS), you can continue to volunteer as a gardener at that location and log your hours. If giving a talk for a sponsor like a library or public garden has been approved, you can record the hours it takes you to develop and give the talk.

Please do not agree to volunteer as an MGV for any *expansion* of an existing project. For example, don't give a talk as an MGV for a location where only gardening is currently approved.

Inevitably, some projects will fall into gray areas. If you have any question about a project, contact our Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill, (julie.hill@wisc.edu) before you volunteer. She'll help you determine whether or not it's OK to do the project right now as a representative of the MGV program.

More Training Coming Up in July and Beyond

Don't forget Onboarding Lite and Plants Plus modules are always available. If you don't find them under the "Learn" tab at mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu, look in the online classroom software, Canvas, which you access with your UW NetID.

WI Horticulture Updates, Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., July 9, 16, 23 and 30, online

The Extension Horticulture Update is a great continuing education opportunity for you to learn more about the emerging pests and problems that occur in our gardens and landscapes across the state. In addition, special topics are covered each time. July topics include **fruit pests update (7/9)**, **proper tree and shrub watering (7/16)**, **spotted lanternfly update (7/23)** and **late season vegetable pests (7/30)**. Each week counts as 1 hour of continuing education. Sign into Canvas using your UW NetID for connection links. Or go to this address: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11hrJi9hsJBWSl0SWjR4aqU2VFRE-Fy4pvlxKD4CyXk/view>

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, go to this address: <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

The deadline to register for this class has passed, but you could call and inquire if space is still available: 608-245-3648

July 8, Fantastic Ferns and How to Grow Them Walk, 6-7:30 p.m., \$12/\$15. Registration deadline was June 28.

Registration is still open for these classes. Some may already be filled but try anyway--cancellations do occur.

July 15, Unusual Suspects: The Other Pollinators, 2-3 p.m. via Zoom, \$12/\$15. Registration deadline: July 8.

July 17, Insect Photography, 1-4 p.m., \$22/\$28. Registration deadline: July 7.

July 20, Ask the Plant Doctor (Melinda Myers) Q&A Session, 6:30-8 p.m. online, **free**. Registration deadline: July 18.

July 21, Sustainable Success at Olbrich, 6-7:30 p.m., \$18/\$22. Registration deadline: July 11.

July 22, Are Your Weeds Laughing at You?, 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$16/\$20. Registration deadline: July 12.

August 2, Lawn Alternatives Walk, 6:30-8 p.m., \$15/\$18. Registration deadline: July 25.

August 11, Create a Tropical Effect in Your Garden Walk, 6-7:30 p.m., \$12/\$15. Registration Deadline: August 1.



A Red Milkweed Beetle



Dane County UW Extension Green Thumb Gardening Classes, Mondays, 6-8 p.m, online and Thursdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. in-person labs

The Green Thumb Gardening series will give you the practical knowledge to keep your home garden thriving! University of Wisconsin Extension educators and local horticulture experts provide in-depth and accessible information for everyone from the novice to the experienced gardener. Cost is \$12/session. Register up until the day of the class at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-green-thumb-gardening-mid-summer-series-online-talks-tickets-128295801195>

July 12, Monday, Shade Perennials

July 15, Thursday, Shade Perennials Lab at Dane Co. Extension Office

July 19, Monday, Perennials for Sun

July 22, Thursday, Perennials for Sun Lab at Dane Co. Extension Office

Identification and Control of Woody Invasive Plants, Thursday, July 8, 1 p.m. online

Invasive shrubs, trees, and vines are a serious threat to native plants and natural areas in Illinois (and Wisconsin). Species such as Amur honeysuckle and common buckthorn can grow so dense that they nearly block all of the light to the forest floor. Vines, like Oriental bittersweet can wrap around trees so tightly it girdles them. But all is not lost, as management techniques exist that can aid in the safe and effective control of these species. Join us to learn how to identify the common woody invasive plants in Illinois and what you can do to control them. A Zoom link to join the webinar will be emailed to you a few days prior to the webinar. Free, but donation appreciated. To register, go to <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23620>

Themed Gardens: Design with Kids in Mind, Tuesday, July 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m. online

Foster the love of gardening with the youth in your life by creating theme gardens. Explore ideas and tips for creating a special place for your young, hands-on learner to grow, explore, and be creative. Whether it's at a school, community garden, or your backyard, theme gardens use plants and design elements inspired by a specific topic, such as favorite books, colors, foods, animals, or even places to visit. The possibilities are endless! Free, but registration required. Go to

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23626>



Nicholas Conservatory Outdoor Garden Tour, Thursday, July 22, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Join our volunteer docent on a tour of the outdoor gardens at Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens. Learn about native and exotic plants, shade and sun loving plants, and NCG and Sinnissippi history and fun facts. Walking shoes and a bottle of water are recommended. Meet in the lobby of Nicholas Conservatory. **FREE!** [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



UW Arboretum Summer Garden Stroll, Sunday, July 25, 1-2 p.m.

This gently paced stroll through the gardens on wheelchair accessible routes is well-suited for a multi-generational outing. Learn about plants, animals, and fungi; phenology; and ecology. Meet in the outdoor classroom 5 minutes before start. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and come prepared for weather and insects. Walks take place rain or shine, except in unsafe weather. Free. Space is limited. Due to COVID restrictions, all participants must register by July 22: go.wisc.edu/www431

Field Day Hancock Ag Research Station, Saturday, August 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

This garden open house is a family-friendly event, offering tours of the station’s babbling brook, vegetable garden and many other new additions. There will be activities for kids including an alphabet adventure and bingo. Free. No registration required. N3909 County Road V, Hancock, WI

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