

# Master Gardener Update

## June 2019

<p><b>In this Issue</b></p> <p>Sunflower Bees</p> <p>12 Herbs for Bees</p> <p>Monarch Migration</p> <p>RPMGA: Tour Intrinsic Perennial Gardens</p> <p>Rotary: Wild Edible and Poisonous Plant Hike</p> <p>MGV News</p> <p>Other Events of Interest</p> <p>Volunteer Opportunities</p> <p>Education Calendar</p>	<p><b>Pollinator Project</b></p> <p><b>Sunflower Bees</b></p> <p><i>(Svastra sp.)</i></p> <p><i>Svastra</i> females have large scopae that cover the lower half of their rear legs, making it look like they are wearing shaggy legwarmers. <i>Svastra</i> is limited to the Americas, with 15 species in North America.</p> <p>Identification: Robust and hairy, with bands of pale hair on their abdomens, and obviously hairy hind legs. Moderate in size – 0.4 to 0.8 inches (10-20 mm) long. Female carry dry pollen on conspicuous scopae covering the lower half of their hind legs. Males have exceptionally long antennae.</p> <p>Similar insects: May be confused with <i>Melissodes</i>, but usually noticeably larger, since <i>Melissodes</i> don't exceed 0.7 inches (18 mm) in length. The genus is one of a group of closely related genera placed in the tribe</p>	 <p><i>Figure 1- Sunflower Bee (on a purple cone flower) with its long scopae. Photo with permission of the photographer, BugGuide Associate Editor Lynette Elliott.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>continues</i></p>
---	---	---

**Websites**

**UW Extension Rock County:**  
rock.uwex.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:**  
wimastergardener.org

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

*Eucerini*, which includes *Eucera*, *Svastra*, and *Tetralonia*. One clue scientists use to recognize *Svastra* is a narrow band of flattened (spatulate) hairs that cross the back of the thorax between wing bases. These hairs are somewhat more reflective, looking almost waxy, when seen in light at the right angle.

Foraging: *Svastra* includes both generalists and specialists. Many species are associated with various species of sunflowers (*Helianthus*). The two widespread species in the subgenus *Anthedonia* specialize on plants in the Evening primrose family. Another (*Svastra duplocincta*) is a cactus specialist.

Nests: Most make solitary nests in the ground. Some species nest communally, with two or more females sharing a nest entrance and yet each excavating and provisioning her own brood cells. The cells are vertical and lined with a wax-like secretion. *Svastra obliqua* fill the bottom of the nest cell with a moist mixture of nectar and pollen, and then lay an egg atop this mixture.

Source: *The Xerxes Society Guide - Attracting Native Pollinators – Protecting North America’s Bees and Butterflies*

Did you know? *Svastra obliqua*, one of the most common and abundant species in the genus, is an important pollinator of hybrid sunflower crops in California. This species occurs from coast to coast and from Mexico to Canada.



**Do Something Nice for Pollinators during National Pollinator Week**

Learn something new about pollinators. Plant some flowers to fill a gap in the bloom times in your garden. Attend one of the daily sessions on pollinators at the Mitchell Park Domes in Milwaukee or Olbrich Gardens in Madison. Plant any of the milkweeds to help support monarchs and other pollinators. Decide to create a Monarch Waystation in your yard. Join the Bumble Bee Brigade and report your sightings to the WI DNR. Or join Bumble Bee Watch and submit to the national database kept by the Xerxes Society. Give a talk to a local group on pollinators. (We have a program ready to go.)



*Honey bee on borage. Photo: Ohio State Extension.*

## Twelve Plants for a Bee-Friendly Herb Garden

Worried about the plight of the honeybee? You can help bees and other pollinators by planting these twelve herbs and flowers that are not only useful for you, but helpful for them.

**Borage:** This herb fills with nectar every two minutes which means bees can sip from borage practically all day long.

**Lavender:** An amazing ground cover and useful in your home for so many reasons, you can plant different varieties of lavender for year-long growth.

**Mint:** Mint in a bee garden may help deter wax moths from beehives.

**Comfrey:** This herb refills with nectar every 45 minutes.

**Hyssop:** Hyssop not only attracts bees, but also butterflies!  
(Bumble bees go mad for it!)

**Lemon Balm:** Another excellent spring ground cover, lemon balm can help settle honeybees in a new hive. You can also rub it on your hands to prevent bee stings.

**Sage:** Most of the sage family of herbs attracts bees.

**Rosemary:** This herb grows early in the season, making it a great early food source for bees.

**Thyme:** The fragrance of thyme is attractive to bees and butterflies.

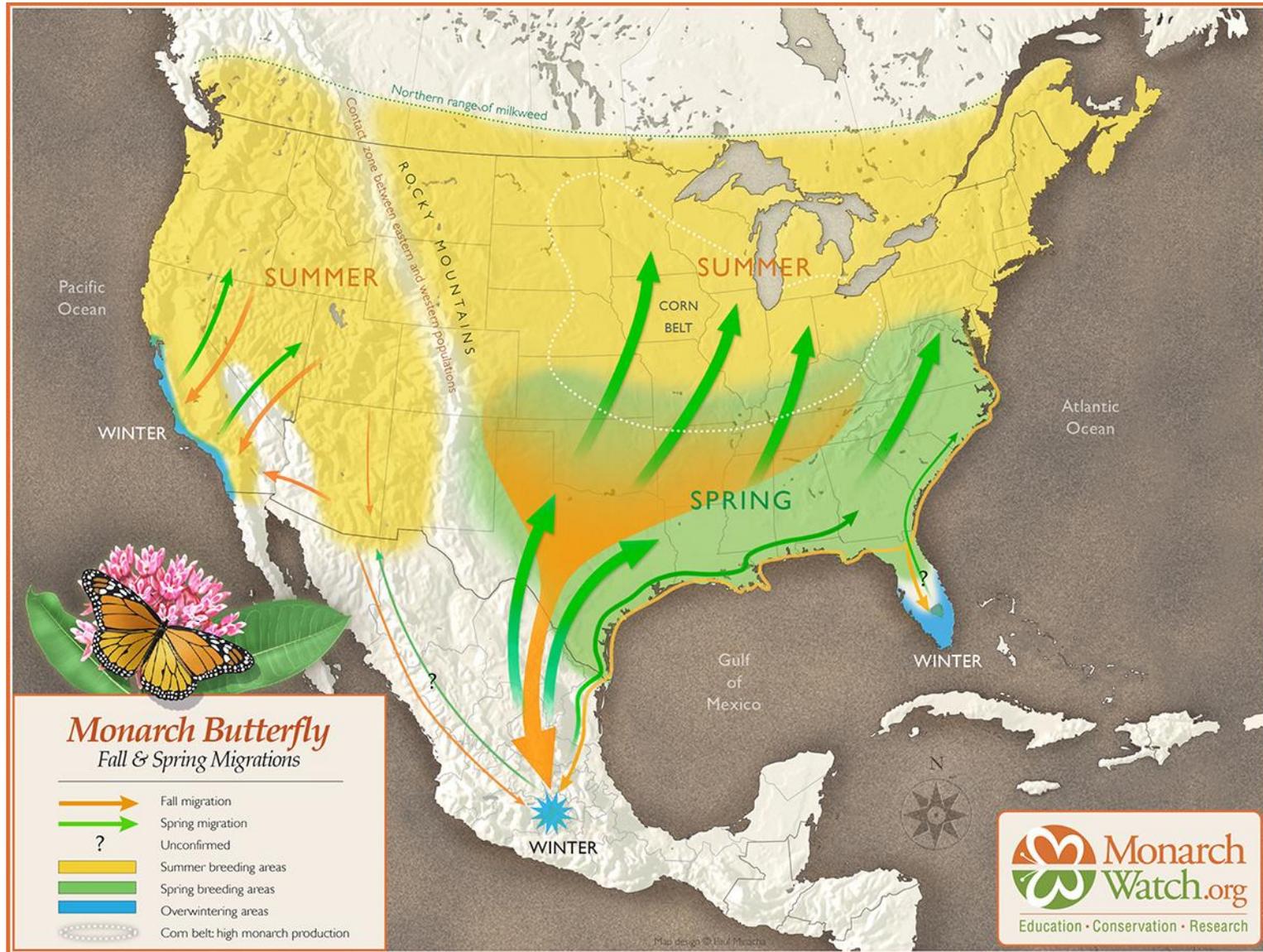
**Angelica:** It's not only beautiful when it flowers, but bees and butterflies also love it.

**Myrtle:** Place this shrub in your bee garden for a little height variety. It's attractive to bees and other pollinators.

**Catmint/Nepeta** (aka known as catnip): While it's known for being attractive to cats, catmint also attracts bees.

Note: If you're purchasing already-grown plants, purchase from an organic grower to ensure the plants were not treated with toxic pesticides, herbicides or fungicides.

# Monarch Migration: Where Do They Come From? Where Do They Go?



## RPMGA June Event: Tour Intrinsic Perennial Gardens, Hebron, IL. Thursday, June 6.

The first Thursday of June, we have a chance to explore a top tier wholesale perennial growing operation at Intrinsic Perennial Gardens. Leading the tour will be owner Brent Horvath. Brent is the author of the award winning book, “The Plant Lovers Guide to Sedums” and the nursery was named the 2016 Grower of the Year by the Perennial Plant Growers Association. And on a more familiar note, Intrinsic is the source of most of the perennials stocked at Rotary Gardens’ plant sales.

On its 23-acre farm, Intrinsic grows and selects mostly field-grown perennials that will be long-lived and hardy, particularly here in the upper Midwest. As breeders, Intrinsic has introduced numerous plants into the nursery trade. They grow their plants as naturally as possible, with minimal fertilizer, few pesticides and natural products as their first choice. The tour shows their growing areas, including the propagation fields, plug growing areas, selection trials and new varieties under development. You’ll have the chance to see the display gardens. And though Intrinsic is generally a wholesale nursery, we’ll have the opportunity to purchase plants while we’re there. If you want to get a better sense of the operation or browse ahead of time, their website is [www.intrinsicperennialgardens.com](http://www.intrinsicperennialgardens.com). They’re also on Facebook and Pinterest.



**Date:** Thursday, June 6, 2019

**Location/Time to Carpool:** Meet at Pat Dawson Ball Field (920 Beloit Ave., in Jeffris Park, a little bit west of Rotary Gardens) at 11:30 a.m.

**Location/Time of Tour:** 10702 Seaman Road, Hebron, IL, about 1 hour drive from Janesville. Tour begins at 1:00 p.m. Plan for at least an hour and a half on site. **NOTE:** Bring or wear boots if the ground is wet.

Additional stops can be arranged if there’s someplace else you’d like to go.

*Geums grown at Intrinsic Perennial Gardens*

## **Save the Date: July 11 Tour of Rotary Gardens**

RPMGA member Art Hilker has arranged a special tour of Rotary Gardens for us as our July program. It will take place Thursday, July 11, at 9:30 a.m. Put the date on your calendar and watch for more details in the next newsletter!

## **Rotary Gardens: Wild Edible and Poisonous Plants Hike, June 1, 10:00 a.m. to noon.**

There are many reasons why people might have an interest in learning more about wild edible plants: an interest in natural/organic foods, as an outdoor hobby, as a way to save money, and for those with an interest in developing survival skills. In this outdoor program, naturalist Dave Bendlin will lead participants in a hike around the gardens and the woodland trails across the street to observe and identify a variety of common wild edible plants. He will also point out some common poisonous plants that should be avoided and offer some guidelines for collecting and preparing wild edible plants.

Register online at [rotarybotanicalgardens.org/event/wild-edible-and-poisonous-plants-hike/](http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/event/wild-edible-and-poisonous-plants-hike/). **Note:** If you miss this June 1 date, Dave is giving the hike again on two dates: Saturday, June 8 at Welty Environmental Center and Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at Rotary.

## **MGV News**

### **Introducing Our New Horticulture Outreach Specialist: Julie Hill**

Julie has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Education. She brings extensive knowledge of program development and evaluation, program organization, and experience working with volunteers. She will be working an average of three days a week in Walworth and one day a week in Rock County. More information will be coming about her schedule and other details, but her first day will be June 17. Julie, we look forward to meeting and working with you. Welcome!

### **Gifts, Honoraria and Expense Reimbursements (Guidelines from the MGV Program Office)**

“Occasionally a MGV may be offered a gift or honorarium as a speaker. It is permissible to accept a small gift but not money. It is not permissible to ask for or seek payment for any educational services provided as a MGV. It is the responsibility of the MGV to inform the person/group making the offer that no payment is expected or required. Donations to the MGA, or the MG Foundation Fund, are an acceptable method of handling “offered fees.” A MGV can accept reimbursement for travel and expenses associated with preparing/conducting an educational program.” (To find out more about the MG Foundation Fund, you can go to <https://wimastergardener.org/master-gardener-foundation-fund/> )

## Master Gardener Volunteers Out and About

*Clockwise from top left: Ruth Oren and Mary Thompson helping students at the WI Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WCBVI) create seed tape. Bev Feltz with updated Children's Adventure Backpacks at Rotary Gardens (get the grandkids and check one out!). Deb Grams, Mary Thompson and Ruth Flescher giving a program on pollinators at the Beloit Library. Susan Wood helping a WCBVI student explore an insect hotel.*



## Other Events of Interest

**Klehm Arboretum Garden Fair**, Saturday June 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, June 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 100 vendors selling flowers, antiques, and art on the beautiful 155-acre grounds. The Fountain Garden will be transformed into a food court, including beer and wine from Prairie Street Brewing. Live entertainment will be provided throughout the entire weekend, and there will be plenty of room to sit and relax between shopping. \$8 admission.

**Song Sparrow Farm Open Greenhouse Days**. Roy Klehm has retired and the nursery is under new ownership, but for this year, at least, Song Sparrow is continuing its tradition of opening its greenhouses for local plantaholics to come and buy. There are two dates in June: Saturday, June 1 and Saturday, June 15. Hours both days are 8 a.m. till noon. Until June 10, you can preorder plants to pick up on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Preorder is recommended for anything you really, really want to be sure to get. (The preorder deadline for June 1 has passed.) Address of the farm is 13101 E. Rye Road, Avalon, WI. For more info, see [www.songsparrow.com](http://www.songsparrow.com).

The **American Hosta Society's** national convention, Hostaffinity, will be in Green Bay this year, from June 12-15. For more information, go to [www.ahs2019event.org](http://www.ahs2019event.org).

**Madison Rose Society Rose Show**, Sunday, June 16, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, noon to 4 p.m.

The **Midwest Renewable Energy Association's** 30<sup>th</sup> annual Energy Fair is a fascinating take on many aspects of renewable and sustainable living—not just energy. This year the fair is also adding tours to several farms and gardens in the area that embrace the sustainability concept. The fair takes place June 22 and 23 in Custer, WI (a little east of Stevens Point).



**2019 Master Composter Training:** A Master Composter workshop will be held this fall to provide training for anyone who wishes to teach others about home composting, including backyard composting and vermicomposting. The two-part training will take place at the Dane County Extension office in Madison on Monday evenings, October 28 and November 4, 2019. There's a discount if you register before October 21, 2019. You can register now or find more information at <https://2019mastercomposterstraining.eventbrite.com>. For questions, contact Mindy Habecker: [Habecker@countyofdane.com](mailto:Habecker@countyofdane.com), 608-224-3718.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Rotary Gardens Work Days** Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings through mid-June. Saturday sessions run from 8 a.m. till noon. Bring gloves and meet at the main building. Wednesday evenings run from 6-8 p.m. Bring gloves and meet at the Horticulture Center. Note: if the weather is questionable, please call 608-754-1779 (Mark Dwyer's direct line) to hear if there are any plan changes.

**Rotary Gardens Weekday Volunteering** Join the regular weekday volunteers—the Grumpies and Grumpettes—to help out on Mondays or Thursdays from 8 a.m. till noon. There's always a long to-do list! For questions, contact Laura Peterson at 608-314-8415.

**Rotary's Home Garden Tour** This year's version of the annual garden extravaganza will take place on Saturday, July 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. If you want to be a garden docent or help with tickets and directing foot traffic, send an email to: [volunteer@rotarygardens.org](mailto:volunteer@rotarygardens.org) Each home featured on the tour needs people in both the morning and the afternoon. You can work either shift or both.

**WI Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired** Get involved in the initial stages of a long-term project to plan and help install a sensory garden next summer on the property of the WI Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired at 754 Williamson Street in Madison. The first team meeting with WCBVI will take place on Monday, June 24 in Madison (time TBD). If you would like to be involved in this project, contact Bev Feltz ([pengnix@yahoo.com](mailto:pengnix@yahoo.com)).

**WI Center/School for the Blind and Visually Impaired** This opportunity is in Janesville. Following up on MGCV presence at the school's Day in the Garden event on May 17 (right), we will be returning in September to help students add an insect hotel to their garden. Planning and preparation will need to be done ahead of time. If you can contribute time to help make this happen, contact Bev Feltz ([pengnix@yahoo.com](mailto:pengnix@yahoo.com)).



*Mary Thompson discussing a sample Insect Hotel with a WCBVI student.*

## June Education Calendar

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

**NCG = Nicholas Conservatory Garden, Rockford, IL; UWA = UW Arboretum, Madison; RPMGA = Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, Janesville; OBG = Olbrich Botanical Garden, Madison; WHPS = WI Hardy Plant Society, Madison; WEC = Welty Environmental Center, Beloit; UWSP = UW Stevens Point; KA = Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, IL; UIEX = Univ. of Ill. Extension, Winnebago County, Rockford, IL; JUFA & BC = Janesville Urban Forest Alliance and Basics Coop, Janesville.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Simply Spring: The Butterfly Exhibit thru June 9 NCG						1 Spring Bird Hike UWA/Dragonfly Monitoring Training UWA/
2 Curtis Prairie Partnerships UWA/ Garden Excursion UWA/	3	4	5	6 Tour Intrinsic Perennial Gardens RPMGA	7	8 Plant, Water, Grow! OBG/Arboretum Fungi UWA/ Tree and Herbaceous Peony Workshop WHPS/ Wild Edible and Poisonous Plants WEC/
9 Monarch Larva Monitoring Project UWA/Early Bloomers on the Oak Savannah and Prairie UWA/	10	11	12 Woodland, Savannah and Prairie Gardens UWA/	13 Grasses & Sedges ID and Sampling Workshop UWSP/	14	15

<b>16</b> Curtis Prairie Walk UWA/	<b>17</b> Bumble Bees of WI OBG/	<b>18</b> Make Seed Bombs for Pollinators OBG/ Speak Bird WEC/	<b>19</b> Creative Native Bee House Work- shop OBG/What's Blooming Native Plant Garden Tour UWA/	<b>20</b> The Unusual Suspects (Non- bee Pollinators) OBG/Build a Bee House OBG/	<b>21</b> Pollinator Plants Walk OBG/ Summer Solstice Night Walk UWA	<b>22</b> Hike into the Wild KA/
<b>23</b> Bumble Bee ID OBG/ Prairies and Savannahs on the Grady Tract UWA/ A Prairie in Bloom UWA/	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Yes, You Can Preserve It Safely UIEX/	<b>26</b> Proper Tree Pruning Techniques JUFA & BC/	<b>27</b> Evening Garden Tour WHPS	<b>28</b> Plants for Pollin- ators: Creating a Pollinator Para- dise UWSP	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> From Garden to Vase with Native Flowers OBG/ Curtis Prairie Discoveries UWA						

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.

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

Physical Address: 3506 North Highway 51, Building A, Janesville, WI 53545

Phone: 608-757-5066 Fax: 608-757-5055