




Master Gardener Update

June 2021

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Websites

For Rock County

MGV info:

rock.extension.wisc.edu/
OR
fyi.extension.wisc.edu/
mgvrockco/

MGV Hours Reporting:

mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu/
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:

mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu

Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA): wimga.org

with turf grass. She realized when the leaves started to flutter down in the fall that she didn't know how to care for her trees.

"I've got 27 deciduous trees. When the leaves started to fall it was like – what do I do? Rake? Mulch? Leave it? And the shoreline? I wanted to pick the right plants for the shoreline." She soon realized she needed to learn more. "I needed to be educated."

"That's why I chose to become a Master Gardener," she goes on. She was nothing if not persistent. For literally years she tried to get into the program. "But unfortunately for years the classes were filled. After about seven years I finally got in the class."

When she started taking her classes in Elkhorn she realized she had bit off something huge.



"It's such a big, big topic," she says about gardening. "That's what made me get the itch to want to do it."

She soon learned that there is a wealth of things to learn – much that might take years of study. Over the years she had attempted to teach herself about gardening and at times felt overwhelmed.

"You just get so much information, and it's all different information. You really don't know what to do."

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Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association...Inc.?

Please read. This is boring but necessary information: As part of the reorganization that made Extension a division of the UW-Madison, the MGCV Program is **requiring all the local MG associations and WIMGA to become “legal entities.”** Translated into plain English, we have to incorporate or disband. Incorporating the association protects the UW to some extent, but it also protects us from individual liability for any actions of the association. (Yes. Each member is currently liable for RPMGA’s actions as an organization—who knew?) The deadline the UW set is the end of this year—and we’ll need to update our bylaws as well.

Technically, there are a couple types of non-profit corporate structures we could choose, but the one that’s simplest and least burdensome is to become a non-stock corporation under Wisconsin law. It requires a board, officers, official records, and other kinds of “business” hoops to jump through. The only option that doesn’t require us to make that kind of effort is disbanding the association and simply being individual MGCVs and WIMGA members. We could still do projects and social get-togethers, but we wouldn’t have any funding.

Right now we’re trying to understand our options in more depth, but no matter what, **we’ll need a member vote.** Please think about whether you’d be willing to give some of your volunteer hours to our organizational functions (board member, anyone?) and keep an eye out for more information.

Yes on a Directory—But We Have One Last Task

Do we want a Rock County MGCV roster? Overwhelmingly, yes. And most of us prefer an electronic version. To keep personal information off the internet, we’ll send your directory as a file that you can keep on your computer (or phone or tablet), but that can also be printed if you prefer that format. Now all we need is have you let us know if there’s any information you **don’t** want to share. Watch your email for details—you’ll only need to respond if there’s anything you prefer to keep private!

Next MGCV Virtual Coffee/Tea Chat: Tuesday, June 8, 9:00 a.m.

Join your fellow Rock and Walworth County Master Gardener Volunteers on Tuesday, June 8 at 9 a.m. for a social visit and to catch up on the latest MGCV news. Have something fun to share? Email photos in advance to our Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill (julie.hill.wisc.edu). Julie will send out the Zoom link shortly.



New Covid Guidelines Effective June 1

Hooray! We're ready to take a huge step back toward normal. At the same time, we're not yet ready to abandon Covid safety measures altogether. Below are the main points of the new guidelines for volunteering as an MG. For the complete listing, go to

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wwBoGDWozpBNARAF9cO-aUCUBGvz48TqPRAaWPlE4jaU/edit>

Special Covid Project Pre-Approval: No longer required if you follow the Guidelines from the state office—highlights below. (Note: projects must still be “approved” projects in the general MG program sense—they must already be in the ORS for that county. New projects are not being approved at this time.)



Outdoor Events Including Meetings and Gardening Activities: no more than 500 people, no time limit. Socially distanced or masks if 6' isn't possible. Masks and sanitizer available. Shared surfaces sanitized before and after event. Lists of participants kept. Covid protocols listed in promotional materials. Restrictions for consumption of foods/beverages.

Indoor Events/Meetings: No more than 350 people or 50% of the room's capacity (whichever is less). No time limit. Socially distanced AND masks required. Masks and sanitizer available. Shared surfaces sanitized before and after event. Lists of participants kept. Covid protocols listed in promotional materials. No food or beverages provided if event lasts less than 2 hours. Additional requirements if providing food or beverages. Open doors/windows when possible to improve air flow.

Farmers Markets or Special Events Booths: Outdoor only. You're responsible only for what happens in your booth, where you must follow all outdoor events guidelines (above).

Bus Trips: All parts of the trip that occur off the bus must follow Extension guidelines. Special procedures for boarding and exiting the bus. Masks and social distance required on the bus. Assigned seats, limit of 50% of capacity (1 person/double seat unless they are in the same household). Special requirements of the bus company and driver for masking, ventilation, cleaning, etc.

Co-Sponsored Events: Educational events held in partnership with another organization as the main sponsor. They may be for youth (non-custodial events), incarcerated audiences, individuals in assisted living centers, botanical gardens, etc. The event must meet the guidelines set by Extension for that type of activity as explained above, or the sponsor's policies, if more restrictive.



Volunteer At Rotary Gardens

Garden Help

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 still only for a 1st shift of 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.

Weekend Waterers

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>

Tour Guides and Garden Ambassadors

Ambassadors walk the Gardens' paths during hours of operation to ensure safety of guests while providing a positive presence in the Gardens and occasionally assist with wedding guests. Shifts are available on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. Tour Guides walk groups around the Gardens, sharing information about Rotary's history and other interesting details. There are some groups coming in and Rotary needs Guides to take them around. One group has specifically asked to have a Master Gardener Volunteer as a guide. To volunteer as either an Ambassador or a Tour Guide, contact Carla Edger at volunteer@rotarygardens.org. (Note: please also email Carla and let her know if you are a master gardener; she would like to have that information for her records.)

June Education Events at Rotary Botanical Gardens

Wild Edible and Poisonous Plants Hike, Saturday, June 5, 10 a.m. to noon, live at Rotary Gardens

Naturalist Dave Bendlin will lead participants in a walk around the gardens and nearby woodland trails to observe and identify a variety of common wild edible—and inedible!—plants.

Fee: \$7/members, \$10 general public. **Participation is limited to 15 people.** The registration deadline is June 4, but this class is likely to fill early. Register online, by phone (608- 752-3885) or at the Gardens. Meet at Rotary Botanical Gardens.



What's In Bloom Tour, Wednesday, June 23, 6-7 p.m., live at Rotary Gardens

This monthly tour series runs from May through September and features RBG Director of Horticulture, Michael Jesiolowski. Mike will guide participants around the gardens and describe what is in bloom. Limited to 20 people, so registration is required. Fee: \$0 for RBG members, \$10 for non-members.

Register online, by phone (608- 752-3885) or at the Gardens.



DNR Revives Champion Tree Program

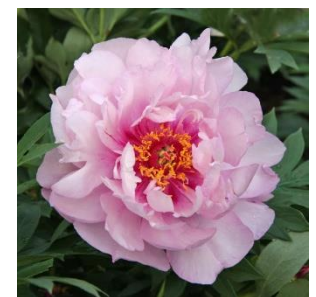
The Champion Tree Program recognizes and celebrates the state's largest trees. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources began documenting these trees in 1940 with the help of the community. People around the state discovered these trees in the Northwoods, in neighbors' yards and along city streets. After a hiatus of several years, the DNR has revived the program and invites you to nominate a tree or even become a big tree inspector! Copy and paste this address in your browser to get more information on either: <https://champion-trees-wi-dnr.hub.arcgis.com/>

Fun Fact: The tree nominated in 2021 that has the largest circumference (so far) is 417" around. That's almost 35'.

What Are Intersectional Peonies?

In the next section, you'll see a listing for a Peony Open House at the Hoard Historical Museum in Fort Atkinson on June 5. The peony garden there is planted almost exclusively with intersectional—or Itoh—peonies donated by one of the world's foremost (and self-taught!) experts in breeding them. And Roger Anderson happens to live not far outside Fort Atkinson. But what is an intersectional peony?

It's a cross between an herbaceous peony and a tree peony. From the herbaceous parent, it gets winter hardiness and annual dieback of most of the above-ground plant material. From the tree peony, it gets much stronger stems and the flower form and color range. So the plants stay upright throughout the growing season and the flowers are show-stoppers.



More Training Coming Up in June and Beyond

Looking for Level 2 MGV training--The Plants Plus modules? 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., June 4, 11, 18 and 25 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. June topics include regulatory issues related to plants (6/4), **trends in herbaceous plants with Mark Dwyer (6/18)** and attracting wildlife to your garden (6/25). (The 6/11 topic is yet to be announced.) 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/11hrIi9hsJBWSlOSWjR4aqU2VFRE-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, copy and paste 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

June 3, Early Summer Herb Walk, 6:30-8 p.m., \$18/\$22. Registration deadline was May 24.

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

June 8, Creating Pollinator Gardens, 6:30-8 p.m. online, free! Registration deadline: June 3.

June 9, Gardening and Discovering the Uses of Parsley, 6-7:15 p.m. online, \$22/\$28. Registration deadline: June 3

June 12, What Lives in My Town? (citizen science plant and animal ID) 10 a.m.-noon, \$12/\$15. Registration deadline: June 2.

June 15, Adding Native Plants to Your Landscape & the Many Benefits, 6:30-8 p.m. online, free! Registration deadline: June 10.

June 17, Create Your Own Succulent Dish, 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$38/\$48. Registration deadline: June 7.

June 22, Low-Growing Shrubs and Vines to Attract and Support Pollinators, 6:30-8 p.m. online, free! Registration deadline: June 17.

June 23, Tools of the Trade: Watering Your Garden, 6:30-8 p.m. online, \$12/\$15. Registration deadline: June 17.

June 30, Gravel Garden Walk, 6:30-8 p.m., \$15/\$18. Registration deadline: June 20.





Dane County UW Extension Green Thumb Gardening Classes, 6-8 p.m, online

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 will 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-late-spring-series-online-talks-tickets-126334240113>

June 7, Monday, Strawberries, Raspberries and Blueberries

June 14, Monday, Healthy Houseplants

June 16, Wednesday, Fruit Tree Care

Peony Open House at the Hoard Historical Museum, Saturday, June 5, 1-3 p.m.

Roger and Sandra Anderson are the breeders of “intersectional” or “ltoh” peonies—created by crossing tree peonies with herbaceous peonies. The foliage looks a lot like an herbaceous peony, but the blooms look more like tree peonies. Over 10 years ago, the Andersons donated more than 60 peonies to serve as the Hoard Museum’s permanent Peony Garden, at the corner of Foster Street and S. 4th Street in Fort Atkinson, behind the museum. The garden contains some of the Andersons’ most well-known peonies: Bartzella, Early Arrival, Court Jester, and more. Garden volunteers will be on-hand at the open house to answer questions. No charge.

New and Emerging Plant Diseases, Monday, June 7, 7-8:30 p.m. online

Come learn about plant diseases that have recently arrived in Wisconsin and have potential economic and/or regulatory impact, as well as more established diseases that have the potential to significantly impact the state in the near future. Presented by Brian Hudleson UW-Madison Plant Disease Specialist. This is a free event, but registration is required: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpduGrrjMrHNRSFc5Qg1uXHMIaXdW6fpvg>

Protect Water Quality from the Comfort of Your Home, Thursday, June 10, 1-2 p.m., online

This University of Illinois Extension webinar provides background information and empowers participants with techniques and resources to keep soil nutrients in their yard. Topics include rain gardens, leaf management, and lawn care. Free, but registration required:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23429>

UW Arboretum Summer Nature Hike, Sunday, June 13, 1-2:30 p.m.

Learn about the land; plants, animals, and fungi; phenology; and ecological practices and concepts. Geared for adults, this longer walk may cover some sloping terrain. 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 June 10 through Eventbrite: <https://210613-uwarboretum-summer-nature-hike.eventbrite.com>



Top Nine Vegetable Garden Insects, Tuesday, June 15, 1:30-2:30 p.m., online

Learn nine of the most common and destructive insect pests in your vegetable garden and how to control them. Get tips on identification, scouting, prevention, and organic methods of eradication. Whether you are new to gardening or a master, you will walk away with tips to make the gardening season a greater success. Free, but registration is required: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23625>

Insect Pest Management in Small Gardens, Thursday, June 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. online

Do you have raised bed gardens, plants in containers, or a small community garden plot? Have you also dealt with insects and want to know how to reduce their damage? If so, this talk is for you. This webinar will discuss a variety of different approaches to manage insect pests in small garden settings. Presented by Patrick (PJ) Liesch. PJ is a statewide Extension entomology specialist and has served the director of the University of Wisconsin Insect Diagnostic Lab since 2014. This is a free event, but registration is required:

<https://go.wisc.edu/7nnt91>

How to Compost at Home, Saturday, June 19, 9-11 a.m., live or online

Cosponsored by the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute. Turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into nutritious fertilizer for your garden and yard! You'll decrease your garbage volume, generate your own fertilizer and soil health-building amendment, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by keeping organic wastes out of the landfill! This workshop will cover the microbiology of composting, balancing inputs to get good-quality compost, equipment and methods of composting, and how to use your compost. You'll have a chance to look, smell, and touch different types of compostable materials and learn simple instant testing methods that you can use at home. Live program takes place at 166 Dekora Street, Saukville, WI. For more info on the Zoom option or to register, email Nicole at ntautges@michael-fields.org

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens Outdoor Garden Tour, Thursday, June 24, 10:30 a.m.-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, June 27, 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 June 24: <https://210627-uwarboretum-summer-garden-stroll.eventbrite.com>

Prairie Tour: Plants and Plans for the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve, Thursday, July 8, 6-7 p.m. OR Saturday, July 10, 9-10 a.m. Registration deadline for either: noon on July 1.

Over 100 acres on the Whitewater campus's northwestern border have been restored and actively managed as a native prairie and nature preserve. Learn more about the diverse array of native plant species in the prairie and savanna ecosystems and observe them during this first peak of the growing season. No charge, but registration required. Limited to 8 participants. Copy and paste this address to register: https://uw-whitewater.ungerboeck.com/prod/emc00/PublicSignIn.aspx?&SessionID=fa1ffpnhmfc2fdpfam&Lang=*



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 southern Wisconsin, too!). 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 and what you can do to control them. Free, but donation is appreciated. To register, go to: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23620>

Meet Mary Ann Burkheimer, continued

The program has given her much food for thought about how to change the landscaping at her home.

When asked if she has considering getting involved in any community outreach projects she said, “Actually, I’d really like to be a regular at Rotary Gardens.” Dr. Yahr was a neighbor when she was a child. “Dr. Yahr put braces on my teeth. Back in the stone age.”

Right: The view from the river, looking uphill toward the house.





She doesn't feel she's ready to get involved in things like the Farmer's Markets or places where she'd be asked gardening questions just yet. "I think I need more experience before I jump into that."

We wish Mary Ann good luck with her landscaping and shoreline projects and hope to see her soon!

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