



Master Gardener Update

November 2020

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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

When you first enter Allen Centennial Gardens you will pass through a wrought-iron gate and find yourself near a handsome Victorian gothic house known as The Dean's Residence.

First opened in 1896, the house has also been known as the "Lake Dormer," the "Fred House," the "Agricultural Dean's Residence," and simply as "10 Babcock Drive". It was one of the first buildings on the agricultural campus and served as home for the college's first four deans. It remains a cherished landmark for generations of students, alumni and friends of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Each of those first four deans, William A. Henry (1891-1907), Harry L. Russell (1907-1931), Christian L. Christensen (1931-1943) and Edwin B. Fred (1943-1945), played a major role in the development of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison. Dean Fred continued to reside in the house after becoming president of the University.



Josh Steger, Allen Centennial Garden's Director of Horticulture, is formerly from Muskego. He worked as an intern until his graduation in 2016 with a Bachelor's in Community and Environmental Sociology.

While the house is no longer used as the dean's residence, it continues to serve a vital role within the university. It has been used as offices for the Agricultural Research Stations and later included the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Conference Services and Garden staff.

In 1984, the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This provided overdue recognition of the building and its grounds and gave the residence its appropriate place among Wisconsin's historic resources. Registration also saved it from certain demise as the campus grew and looked to expand classroom and research facilities.

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RPMGA Announces Dues Moratorium for 2021

It happened with so many things—events postponed or cancelled to limit the spread of Covid-19. RPMGA had its share of disappointments as well. Our bus trip to Seed Savers Exchange: postponed to 2021 (hopefully!). Tours of Boerner Botanical Gardens, green roofs in Beloit, the UW Whitewater's prairie, Welty Environmental Center and Agrecol's field operations and seed processing. Talks on soils, hydroponics and companion planting. All pushed to an unknown future time.

So when it came time for the advisory group of the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association to plan for dues renewal for 2021, we wondered if members got full value for the dues they paid for 2020. We decided the answer was no. As a result, we're waiving dues for the 2021 calendar year. Here's how it will work:

RPMGA Membership Renewal for 2021: Do everything you need to do to recertify as an MGV for 2021. That means

- Log at least 10 hours of continuing education by December 31
- After January 1, complete the online annual enrollment process and any required paperwork

If you recertify as an MGV for 2021, RPMGA will automatically renew your membership for the year. (Note: the Online Reporting System and annual enrollment requirements are found at wimastergardener.org/report-your-hours/)

WIMGA Membership Renewal for 2021: Obviously RPMGA can't waive the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association's dues, but to make things simple, if you are currently a WIMGA member and you recertify as an MGV, RPMGA will pay your WIMGA dues for 2021.

So there you are. No check to write. Nothing to send back. Here's hoping the coming year is safer and we can begin to do lots of the things we had to put off this year!

Wishing a safe and happy Thanksgiving to one and all!





Rotary Gardens: Holiday Light Show Begins November 27

The familiar becomes magical during Rotary Gardens annual Holiday Light Show. This year's event is slated to begin the day after Thanksgiving, and volunteers are needed. If you are comfortable volunteering at an in-person event, contact the gardens and help make this year's show a success.

Approved Volunteer Opportunities

From-Home Work

Our Rock Prairie MG Association needs to update its bylaws due to changes in the MG program, and communicate the suggested bylaws changes to members for a discussion and vote. Would you be willing to help? If you're comfortable doing some writing and like to talk to people, we could use help with the monthly newsletter. If you'd like to try either of these, contact Ruth Flescher (yafello2@gmail.com).

COVID-Approved Garden Work

The season is winding down and there isn't much garden work going on at this point. But FYI, approved gardens in Rock County are **Rotary Botanical Gardens**, the **pollinator garden at Hedberg Public Library**, **Paw Print Park** in Janesville and **Merrill Community Sharing Garden** in Beloit (pictured at right). **Silverwood Park** is technically in Dane County, but it's also on our approved list. You can also volunteer at approved gardens in Walworth County. See 9/23 email from Julie Hill (Julie.hill@wisc.edu) for details.



Online Training Coming Up in November and Beyond

Happy Houseplants at Hedberg Public Library

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. Live on Hedberg's Facebook page on Monday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m. If you can't make it to the live event, the recording will remain on the library's Facebook page and you can view at your convenience.



Green Thumb Gardening Classes with Dane County UW Extension

Horticulture Educator Lisa Johnson and other experts from the Dane County UW Extension are offering 2-hour sessions on Monday evenings throughout November. Classes run from 6 to 8 p.m., and the fee is \$12/session or \$40 for all four topics. The link to the sign-up page on Eventbrite is <https://2020fallgardeningclasses.eventbrite.com>



November 2: Spring Bulbs

November 9: Composting

November 16: Ornamental Grasses and Sedges

November 30: Woody Plants for Fall Fireworks: Choosing Deciduous Woody Plants with Great Fall Color

Topics for their winter sessions focus largely (though not entirely) on vegetable gardens and begin in January. For more information, follow this link: <https://2021greenthumbgardeningwinter.eventbrite.com/>



Falling into the Autumn Vegetable Garden, Univ. of Illinois Extension

Whether you are ready to shut down the vegetable garden for the year or still considering extending a couple more weeks of the growing season with your current plants, there are some practices that you can do this fall. University of Illinois Extension Educator, Grant Mc Carty, will discuss these practices at a program called “*Falling into the Autumn Vegetable Garden*” which will include the topics of seed saving, season extension, crop storage, general end of season practices, fall soil management, and many others. Date: Friday, November 6, from noon until 1 p.m. via Zoom on-line meeting platform. Fee: \$5. Registration link: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22701>.

Planning for Pollinators, University of Illinois Extension

Join Erin Garrett, Illinois Extension Educator, Energy & Environmental Stewardship as she explains the benefits of getting your garden and yard pollinator-ready for fall. Erin's presentation will be followed by a short volunteer led activity. November 11, 2020, 1:30 p.m. A link to register for this webinar can be found at <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2020-11-11-planning-pollinators-0>



Vermi-composting: Turning Leftovers into Soil, University of Illinois Extension

When asked what is under the ground, worms is one of the first things that come to mind. But what purpose do they have and how can we harness what they do best? We can vermi-compost at home. Join Peggy Doty for one of her favorite topics, and personal activities, she utilizes at home and at work. Vermicomposting is one of the easiest ways to compost at home. It is odorless, easy, and makes winter composting so much more fun! Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Register at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22417>

Garden Guru: Growing Apples for the WI Home Gardener

This is another Zoom webinar from upstate. Learn about growing apples, including cultivars, planting, pruning, insects, diseases, and harvesting in zone four by the Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers and hosted by the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library. Monday, November 16, 2020, 6 – 8pm. You can find the sign-up link in the calendar of events at wimastergardener.org, or search for the title online and find the Eventbrite sign up page.



Workshops with Mark Dwyer

Mark has one more Fall workshop this month, through Blackhawk Technical College: **Sustainable & Wildlife Friendly Landscapes** (11/14). His 3 hour Zoom presentation begins at 9:00 a.m., and will also cover some basic fall landscape and garden tasks. The fee is \$18.39 or \$4.50 for seniors. The class description and link to register are at <https://blackhawk.edu/Programs-Classes/Take-a-Class/Class-Search/Non-Credit-Detail/class/202102/093-438/VN/53395>

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



Photo by chickadee via Birdshare.

Links to Past Programs You May Have Missed

On October 27, Julie Hill sent us all an email (“Continuing Education—Links to Videos”) with a set of links to more than 16 different recorded videos of programs from this year that you can watch online at your convenience. Some feature familiar speakers like Mark Dwyer. Some are UW experts like P.J. Liesch from the Insect Diagnostic Lab, Brian Hudelson from the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, and Mike Maddox from the Master Gardener Program Office. Others may be sources completely new to you, like The Wild Ones, the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network or Urban Forestry Today.

Even if you aren’t in need of hours, you might find topics that interest you and valuable resources for the future. It’s worth a look!

In-Person Education Opportunities

Classes at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison

Olbrich has restrictions on the number of participants in any program, so the earlier you contact them, the more likely you’ll get a spot. Registration deadlines are usually about a week before the program, but call and inquire—you may be able to register late. 608-245-3648.



What’s in a Name: Understanding Botanical Latin:
Color, Texture, Shape and Form, Tuesday,
November 3, 6-7:00 p.m.

What’s in a Name: Understanding Botanical Latin:
People and Places, Tuesday, November 10, 6-7:00
p.m.

Designing Attractive Native Gardens for Home & Business, Tuesday, November 5, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Orchids for Beginners, Monday, November 16, 6 - 8:00 p.m.

Wisteria sinensis = Chinese wisteria
Echinacea pallida = pale purple coneflower
Helianthus annuus = annual sunflower

Botanical Latin

Allen Centennial Garden



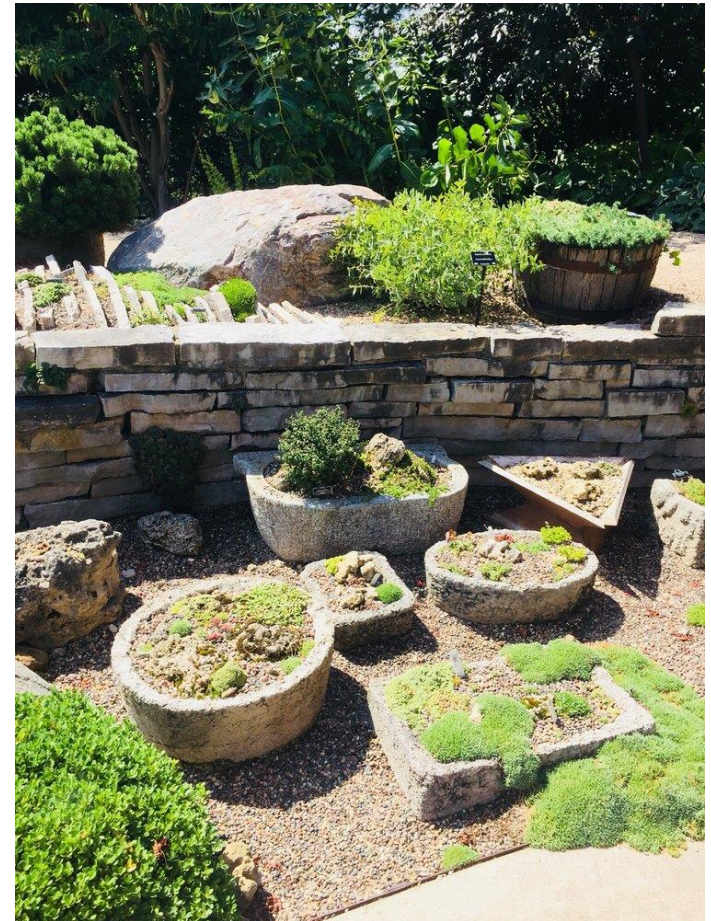
1. [Orientation Garden](#) | [Sally's English Cottage Garden](#) | [Babcock Border Garden](#) | [Promenade](#)
2. [New American Garden](#) | [The Great Lawn](#)
3. [Willow Prairie](#)
4. [Rock Garden](#) | [Carson Conifer Garden](#)
5. [Pond Garden](#)
6. [Iris Meadow](#)
7. [Hillside Garden](#)
8. [French Garden](#) | [Italian Garden](#)
9. [Sustainability Garden](#) | [Shade Garden](#)
10. [Tapestry Lawn](#) (see sidebar, p. 14)
11. [Terrace Garden](#) | [Wyman Kitchen Garden](#) | [Daylily Garden](#)
12. [English Garden](#)
13. [Wisconsin Woodland Garden](#)
14. [Dean's Residence](#)
15. [Pergola](#)

A Stroll Through The Garden

When you enter Allen Centennial Garden stand there a moment and look in all directions. Spread out before you on just 1.9 acres of land are beautiful gardens created through a wealth of knowledge, ingenuity and planning.

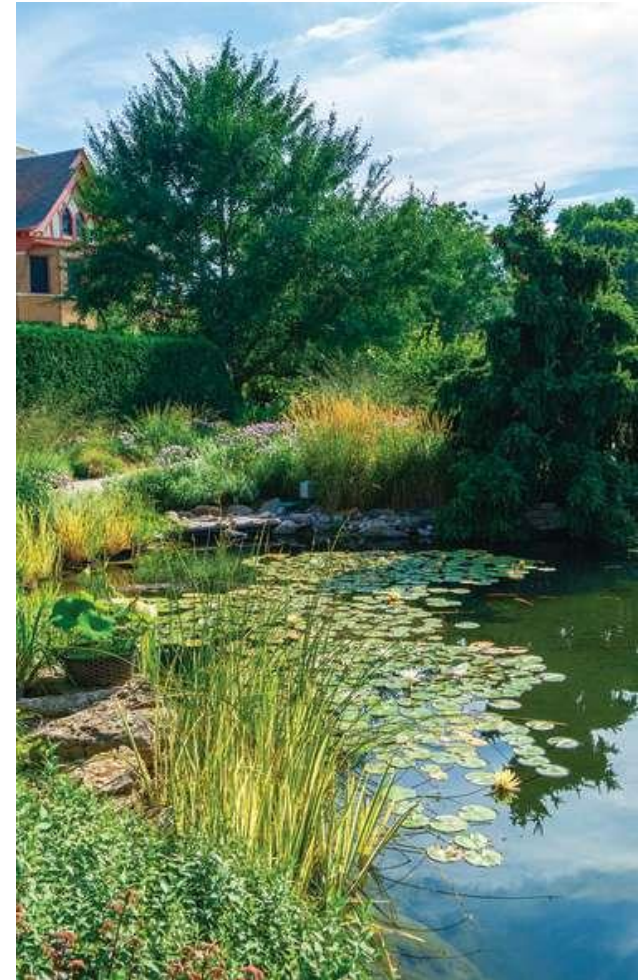
Take a deep breath, and start walking. A turn to the left and you will find Sally's English Cottage Garden, the Babcock Border Garden and the Promenade.

As you follow the path further into the gardens you will find yourself overlooking the Great Lawn and the New American Garden. Depending on which way you turn you will find yourself near either the Willow Prairie, the Rock Garden (right) or the Carson Conifer Garden (below).





As you meander down the walkway next to the Conifer Garden on your right you will see the Pond Garden with its bright red bridge.



Several views of the Pond Garden and its surroundings





As you round the curve in the walkway you will find yourself entering the Iris Meadow and a few steps further on you can follow the walkway to the farthest edges of the property where you will find the Hillside Garden.

Tucked inside neatly trimmed hedges (and backed by the Pergola, left), you will next find the French Garden and the Italian Garden.

If you then walk back to the pond you'll find yourself at the Sustainability Garden and the Shade Garden.

Following the path back toward the house you'll come upon the Tapestry Lawn. (See box, next page)

Moving up along the south side of the house the next features you'll find are the Terrace Garden, the Wyman Kitchen Garden, and the Day-lily Garden.

In the corner farthest from the house you will find the grassy English Garden, complete with an inviting little gazebo.

Moving back toward the front of the property you'll encounter the Wisconsin Woodland Garden, a place of shade and shadow.



Walking around the front of the residence you will find yourself back at the Orientation Garden, but if you venture just a short distance down the hill, you'll find the outstanding beauty of the Pergola.



For those who are interested in the wealth of plant varieties showcased in the gardens, the staff has created what they call their Plant Finder. This unique internet based font of information is made up of lists of the plants for each garden all available to you, online. Use the list and the map shown here to search each one. In order to bring up the lists simply hover over whichever one you wish with your mouse, press Control, then click. A page will open up telling you which plants are featured in that particular garden. Some of the lists include photos. Some are still works in progress. All the lists offer plant type, location, light requirements, soil conditions, flower color, wildlife, class, and even whether or not they are in bloom.

Have you ever heard of a tapestry lawn?

Allen Centennial Garden adopted an exciting new gardening technique developed by Dr. Lionel Smith, who received his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Reading in 2014. In 2019 he published *Tapestry Lawns: Freed from Grass and Full of Flowers*.

A tapestry lawn is an alternative to traditional turf. Grass is replaced by low-growing perennial flowering plants forming an interlaced mat of various textures, layers and shades. Can this lawn be walked on? You bet. Tapestry lawns are a good alternative to traditional lawns because they provide greater diversity of flowers early spring through late fall for pollinators, require less maintenance than traditional turf lawns, and they're more aesthetically pleasing.

The Garden installed its own tapestry lawn this spring around the majestic Larch. Dr. Smith creates tapestry lawns using rectangular mats of single specimens that grow together over time. For this lawn the staff did something a bit different. They used 1,500 plugs of eleven different species to put their garden together. A few of the plants were there as trials: Creeping Raspberry (*Rubus calycinoides*); Pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*); and Woodland Stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*).

Plants had been ordered and were enroute when the pandemic arrived. Staff expedited the project and were ready to install the plants by early April. The plugs adapted remarkably well, and are already beginning to fill in. The staff will post Tapestry Lawn updates on the Garden's website.



It's important to note that Allen is a teaching garden. Staff, and volunteers are always looking for ways to provide accessible classes and programs for the college and the wider community. This fall, they created a four part series with classes on harvesting seeds, sowing a garden, creating your own leaf mulch, and preparing your garden for winter. Josh Steger led all the classes. Each class begins with a video guide filmed in the Garden and is followed by an interactive virtual Q&A panel. The Garden had never created content specifically for an online audience before.

If you decide to visit in person...

Allen Centennial Garden is located at 620 Babcock Drive on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. As mentioned, hours are generally 1 p.m. to dusk on weekdays and dawn to dusk on weekends, but the garden is closed during inclement weather. During these Covid times, reservations are needed, masks are required and social distancing and a one-way traffic pattern are requested. Make your reservation at allencentennialgarden.wisc.edu/plan-your-visit/ Parking: A limited amount of metered parking is available on Babcock Drive, but there is a parking ramp across the street on Observatory Drive. For questions or more information, email info@allencentennialgarden.org or call 608-576-2501.



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