

# Master Gardener Update

## October 2020

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### Virtual Visit

## Green Bay Botanical Garden

*RPMGA continues to bring you virtual tours of Wisconsin's public gardens.*

Located on the west side of the city, the Green Bay Botanical Garden (GBBG) has a total of 47 acres. Of those, 23 ½ acres are developed with lush gardens, outstanding architecture and peaceful woods which offer horticultural adventure among plants that thrive in the upper Midwest. Both children and adults are offered



a variety of educational programs and year-round special events that feature a mix of gardening, cultural and family activities, including the Garden's popular outdoor concerts and light show.

### How It Began

GBBG started as a dream to create a true community garden which all comers could enjoy. It was incorporated in 1982 by a group of community horticulturalists.

## 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

The initial lease was signed with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in 1988. Funds totaling 1.3 million dollars were raised to start construction of the visitor center and the first gardens, which were designed by Douglas Buettner, a landscape architect with a special interest in botanical gardens. The doors were opened to the public in the summer of 1996. While Green Bay Botanical Garden leases the land from the college, to this day no tax dollars go to support the operation of the gardens.

When the garden opened it offered acres of display gardens and natural areas and was designed to capture the beauty of northeastern Wisconsin's four seasons. The array of cultivars shown in the gardens were chosen for their ability to grow and thrive in the upper Midwest. The garden has continued to develop over the years, but its focus remains the same.

*continues on page 9*

*Mark Konlock, Director  
of Horticulture, Green  
Bay Botanical Garden*





## RPMGA & Rotary Gardens

### **PJ Leisch Talks about Beneficial Bugs Thursday, October 15, 4:30 p.m.**

We've focused a lot on pollinators and their benefits over the last couple of years, but pollinators aren't the only insects that are good for our gardens—or our world.

P.J. Leisch, director of the UW-Madison's Insect Diagnostic Lab (also known as the Wisconsin Bug Guy), joins us via Zoom to talk about what some of those other "good guys" are, and what they do for us. P.J. is always entertaining and enlightening. Hope you can join us!

Watch your email for instructions and links to access this Zoom program. P.J.'s presentation is cosponsored by the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association and Rotary Botanical Gardens, and counts for one hour of continuing education.



### **And Speaking of Bugs...**

### **Here's a New Pollinator Resource from the UW**

As part of its wild bee research project, the UW's Dept. of Entomology and Gratton Labs have developed a mobile phone app to identify wild bees in your yard. The app is called WiBee (pronounced wee-bee), or the Wisconsin Wild Bee app. It does more than just identify native bees; it also allows you to share data on bees on your property to help researchers assess bee population levels and health, plus quantify their importance in pollinating Wisconsin fruits and vegetables. It has to be at least 60° out with some sunshine for bees to be active, so they'll only be collecting data for a few more weeks this fall, but that's data they'd like to have! You can still download and use the app even if you don't want to be part of the citizen science reporting.

For more information and lots of other pollinator resources, visit the project website, [pollinators.wisc.edu](http://pollinators.wisc.edu).

## Changes to the Process of Becoming an MGV

We all like to keep our fingers on the pulse, so “Will there be a MG class next year?” is a question many current master gardeners ask. As with so many other things these days, changes are afoot!

The entire MGV initial certification process is moving online. People interested in becoming master gardener volunteers will have to take an online “onboarding” course that covers all the technical parts of volunteering with the University of Wisconsin: the orientation to the Master Gardener Program, enrolling in the program (the background check, mandatory reporter training and required volunteer agreements) and the exam. People work at their own pace, with no specific schedule to follow. **New and different:** incoming volunteers do not HAVE to take extended horticultural training from Extension. As long as they pass the horticultural knowledge exam with a score of at least 70%, they can become certified. The “onboarding” course is expected to become available late this year.

The other piece of the puzzle will take longer. The state MG program office is developing an online “Foundations in Horticulture” course which will have a set schedule with a moderator. The class will be launched late in 2021 in a very limited number of locations (sadly, not here) before becoming more widely available in 2022. Eventually, prospective volunteers who would like more gardening knowledge before attempting the MGV exam will be encouraged to take this course.

In the meantime, if you know anyone who’s interested in becoming a master gardener volunteer, put them in touch with Julie Hill ([julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu)). Julie will have the most current information on how and when they can get started.



### Quick Reminders:

Hours reporting deadline extended to December 31.

For 2020, only the 10 hours of continuing education is required to recertify. Because of the pandemic, you don’t have to have a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer time – just report whatever you have.

If you are volunteering as an MGV, any projects you work on outside your home must get special “covid” approval from our Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill. Also, you are required to watch the Extension’s Covid Safety video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLUd9lyMGO8&feature=youtu.be>

**Did you forward the MG survey?** The September 2020 Volunteer Vibe asks that we all share a survey about the MG program, especially with anyone we know in the 18- to 45-year-old age group. The goal is to get information the program can use to attract new and younger volunteers. Links are in that issue of the newsletter. Please help.

## Approved Volunteer Opportunities



### *Hedberg Houseplants Program*

We're in the planning stages of setting up an online program with Hedberg Public Library on houseplants. The exact date is yet to be determined, but may be sometime late this month (or maybe not till November). Would you like to help us adapt our existing program for an on-line format? Would you be willing to be a presenter? Can you find or take photos of houseplants? Contact Julie Hill ([Julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:Julie.hill@wisc.edu)), Mary Kay Thompson ([mastergardenermary@gmail.com](mailto:mastergardenermary@gmail.com)) or Ruth Flescher ([yafello2@gmail.com](mailto:yafello2@gmail.com)) to volunteer.

### *Writers/Organizers Needed*

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. We also need to write and get out a dues renewal letter. And if you're comfortable doing some writing and like to talk to people, we could use your help with the monthly newsletter. It's all work that can be done from home on your own time. If you're willing to help, contact Ruth Flescher ([yafello2@gmail.com](mailto:yafello2@gmail.com)).

### *COVID-Approved Garden Work*

Only certain types of volunteering (non-contact) are approved at this time, and gardening projects must be approved in advance through our MGCV coordinator, Julie Hill. The garden must meet COVID safety protocols set by the UW, including signage, cleaning protocols, social distancing and bringing your own tools and hand sanitizer. You're also required to view the video on volunteering during COVID, if you haven't already.

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. **Silverwood Park** is technically in Dane County, but it's pretty close, just a few

miles from Edgerton. You can also volunteer at a number of gardens in Walworth County. Julie sent out a list of Covid-approved gardens in both counties, with contact information for the person managing the schedule for each (email dated 9/23/20). Contact Julie ([ju-lie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:ju-lie.hill@wisc.edu)) about getting approval for any other garden you're interested in.

The **Merrill Community Sharing Garden** in Beloit has an upcoming workdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 3 and Saturday, November 7. See their Facebook page for details if you'd like to volunteer.

The **Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy** needs help collecting seeds. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 -6:00 pm through Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Meet at Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy's main entrance located at 251 Elkhorn Road (Highway 67), Williams Bay. Parking is available immediately across the street in the Lions Field House parking lot. No pre-registration is required but you will check-in when you get there. The seed harvesting area is generally located in the main KNC prairie, a short hike from the entrance. It is a very safe prairie area to harvest seeds, with no mosquitos or ticks. Gloves are not required, but some people feel more comfortable wearing them. KNC provides the seed collection bags. Volunteers are harvesting seeds for KNC to use and scatter in areas needing additional ground cover and plantings during the winter months when snow is on the ground.



## Online Training Coming Up in October and Beyond

In addition to P.J. Liesch's talk on Beneficial Bugs (see article above), here are more online education opportunities:

### Fall workshops with Mark Dwyer

Through UW-Whitewater: Mark is offering two more online classes in October: Bulbs in the Garden (Oct. 3), and The Winter Landscape and Late Season Garden Chores (Oct. 24). Sign up at <https://www.uww.edu/ce/workshops/personal-enrichment/gardenlandscape/gardeningworkshops>

Through Blackhawk Technical College ([www.blackhawk.edu](http://www.blackhawk.edu)): Mark will be speaking on Garden Bed Renovation & Autumn Landscape Care (10/17) and Sustainable & Wildlife Friendly Landscapes (11/14). These are 2 hour presentations (PowerPoint format with handouts) with time for questions. While currently scheduled on the primary campus, the shift to a virtual format is likely and details will be communicated to those that enroll.





## Forcing Bulbs, October 8 or 12

*How cool is this? You wouldn't drive to Wausau to attend this in person, but online? Distance doesn't matter!*

Now is the time when many gardeners are purchasing and planting spring flowering bulbs for early season color. You can enjoy tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and crocus indoors as a winter flowering treat if you take steps now to prepare the bulbs. We'll cover bulb selection, planting, cold treatment, and growing. Speaker is Janell Wehr, Extension's Horticulture Educator for Marathon County. Class will be interactive in nature and held through Zoom. The one-hour class is offered at three different times: Thursday, October 8, 2:30 p.m., or Monday, October 12 at either 2 p.m. or 6 p.m. Registration link at [wimastergardener.org/events](https://wimastergardener.org/events)

## Gardening in the Air Conference

University of Illinois Extension teamed up with Iowa State University Extension to offer an online gardening conference on the first two Saturday mornings of October (3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>), from 9 a.m. to noon. Set up like an in-person conference, each day offers three educational tracks, each track offers three break-out sessions. The three tracks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>: Invasives, Houseplants, and Vegetables/Herbs. The three tracks on the 10<sup>th</sup>: Native Plants, Fruits, and Ornamentals. You choose which sessions to attend—as few as one or as many as 6. No charge, but a donation is appreciated. Register separately for each date. For more info and registration links, go to <https://extension.illinois.edu/hmrs> and scroll down the page.



## **First Steps into In-Person Education Opportunities**

If you're looking for some education hours to complete your required 10 by the end of the year, but you don't love the online format, a few locations are cautiously beginning to offer in-person opportunities. If you're comfortable with this option, take a look at these possibilities. All have restrictions on the number of participants, so be sure to register early.

### **Putting Your Garden to Bed, Tuesday, October 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Beloit Public Library**

Our own Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill is leading this class, which is also being streamed to Facebook on the library's page. If you wish to attend in person, register on the library's website ([beloitlibrary.org](http://beloitlibrary.org)).

### **Classes at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison**

Registration deadlines are usually about a week before the program, but call and inquire—you may be able to register late. 608-245-3648.

The Fascinating World of Pitcher Plants, Tuesday, October 6, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Native Shrubs: A Symbiosis of Site, Structure & Sanctuary, Thursday, October 8, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Fall Color Photography, Saturday, October 17, noon – 3:00 p.m.

Orchids for Beginners, Monday, October 26, 6 - 8:00 p.m. (also Monday, November 16, 6 - 8:00 p.m.)

Sustainable Landscaping: Beauty Today ... and Green Tomorrow, Thursday, October 29, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Coming in early November (with October registration deadlines):

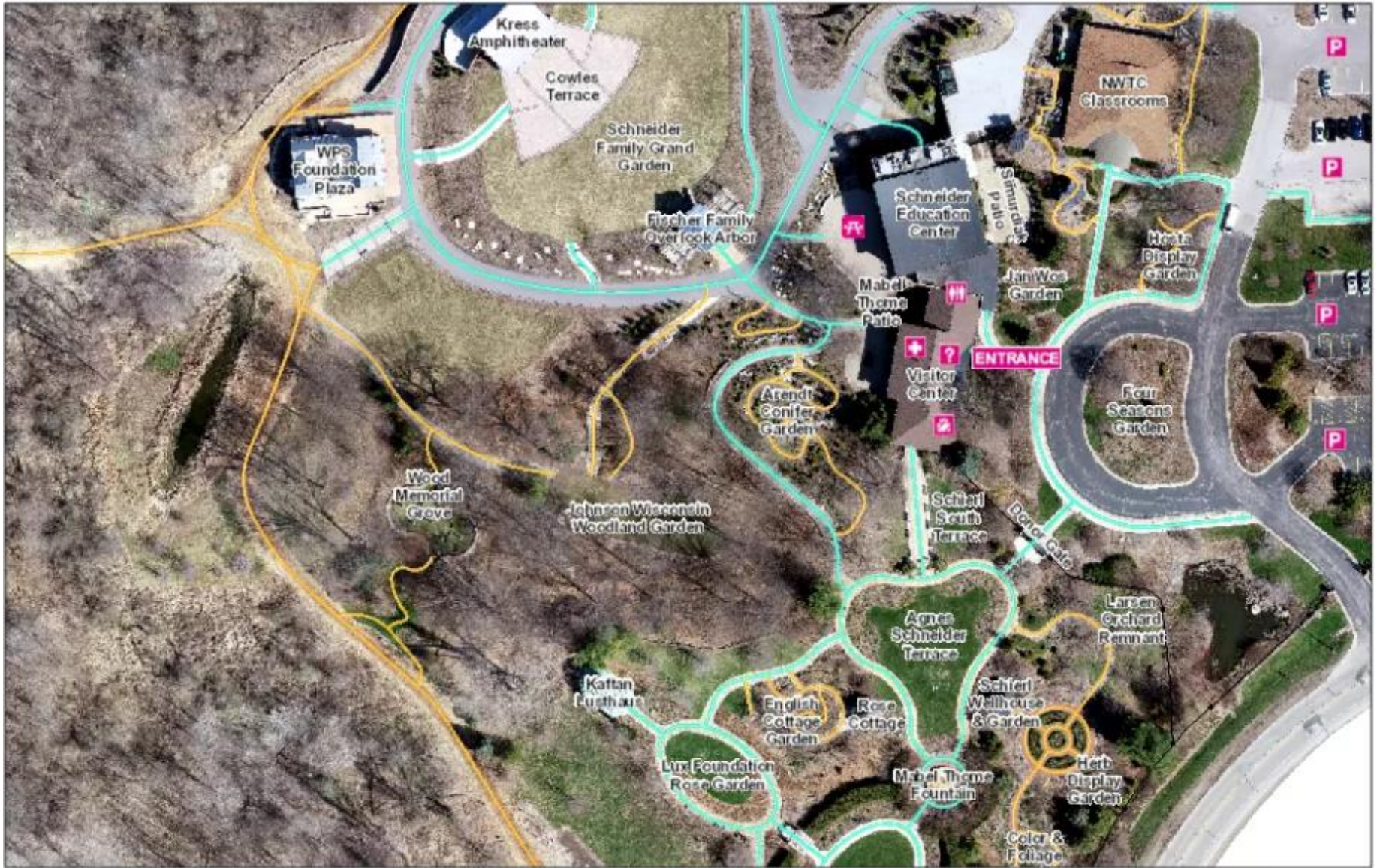
What's in a Name: Understanding Botanical Latin: Color, Texture, Shape and Form, Tuesday, November 3, 6-7:00 p.m.

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.



# GBBG Map





Theme gardens include: the Four Seasons Garden, the Woodland Garden, the Children's Garden, the Contemporary Rose Garden, the Cottage Garden, the Color and Foliage Garden, the Designated All-America Selections Display Garden, and perennial, annual and herb displays.

### Tour the Gardens

From the entrance through the Visitor Center, turn south. One of the first areas you'll encounter is the Schneider Terrace, an American style perennial garden. From the terrace you can see some of the unique structures the garden is known for: the Rose Cottage (right), the Fountain and the Wellhouse (shown on page 1).

The wellhouse is a popular venue for photographers. It overlooks a number of unique gardens. To the left of the wellhouse entry is the Larsen Orchard Remnant. The whole property was actually an apple orchard, and during World War 2 apples were harvested and used for applesauce for the soldiers. Today the garden features shade-tolerant perennials and annuals.



Opposite the wellhouse entrance, on a lower level, you'll see a formal style garden and sundial surrounded by six herb gardens which are taken care of by local groups in Green Bay.

If you look to the right from the wellhouse, you can see the color foliage garden. This garden relies heavily on textured and colored foliage instead of blossoms for interest.

You can also see the Mabel Thome Fountain. The garden's founders had the foresight to install a well at Green Bay Botanical Garden. Since its inception it's pumped over six million gallons that have watered all the plants throughout the property. It even fills the fountain. This is a great place to relax: shade, benches, the music of the water, the beautiful blossoms of that ataractic crabapple in the springtime and gorgeous views of the other areas throughout the garden including the Vanderperren English



Cottage Garden. The cottage is an example of how a groundskeeper would have lived on a country estate. The charming garden is an example of how those groundskeepers would have gardened. They would have incorporated vegetables into their flowering plants. Their gardens relied heavily on self-seeded annuals which would have saved on their budget and allowed them to incorporate a lot of different plants throughout the garden. Frugal in everything, even their hardscaping material was something they would have rummaged about and found. For example oak casks were brought home and incorporated into their paving systems. The beauty of this garden is how it changes through the seasons.



Next you'll see a yellow building with the green tin roof - the Kaftan Lusthaus (above). This gorgeous three-season Scandinavian gazebo is a very popular rental site. It also offers this beautiful panoramic view of the Upper Rose Garden.



Strolling through the upper rose garden you will arrive at the Kress Oval Garden. The oval is flanked by two arbors, a belvedere and the fountain, and is planted as a contemporary rose garden, with a wide variety of perennial plants and modern landscape shrub roses. It's the most popular wedding site in the gardens.

In the rose garden, you'll come upon a statue of George and Marguerite Kress. George was the founder of Green Bay Packaging Company, one of the city's largest paper manufacturing companies. He loved to serenade his wife Marguerite with a Stradivarius violin. Legend has it if you rub Marguerite's left earlobe and make a wish, it will come true.





*The Stumpf Belvedere, with its pattern of trees and stars*

Bring your family out to the Gertrude B. Nielsen Children's Garden - one of the few children's gardens in the state of Wisconsin. There are a lot of activities to do there. You can water the topiary animals in the wetting zoo, examine the koi in the pond and look throughout the garden for mailboxes filled with fun activities for your family. There's a maze to navigate, a treehouse to climb, a slide to go down as well as many gardens to explore including the butterfly garden in the sensory garden.

When you're done exploring the children's garden,

take a look at the Stumpf Hobbit House. It's a rest station that includes a rest room and drinking fountain.

Across the path is the children's gardening patch. Families can rent space



where children can grow vegetables and other produce under the watchful eye of the garden's horticulture and education staff.

Nearby, the King Shade Garden & Spring House Ruin

is a tranquil oasis. Not only are there thousands of shade tolerant perennials and hundreds of hostas, there is also a stream that leads to the ruins of a spring house. The carefully preserved remains celebrate the horticultural history of the Larsen Orchard Remnant. A structure like this would have been used to cool produce before refrigeration was available. Before returning to the Visitor Center you and your family might want to rest in this cool shade garden environment.







Remember the garden is always changing so be sure to come back often to see what's new. Spring and fall bring their own seasonal colors, and visiting in winter gives you the chance to see the stunning WPS Garden of Lights.

(Note, if you'd like to get the full visuals, take the video tour by holding down your control button while clicking on this link: [Introduction to the Green Bay Botanical Gardens.](#))

For information on hours and fees please visit their website at [gbbg.org](http://gbbg.org), or inquire by email at [info.gbbg.org](mailto:info.gbbg.org).



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