

Master Gardener Update

September 2019

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Bee on Penstemon

Websites

Div. of Extension Rock County:

rock.uwex.edu

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 BMP opens with some simple facts:

- Any pollinator that visits a plant may help pollinate the plant. Bees are the most efficient at moving pollen from flower to flower.
- Types of pollinators include: Butterflies, flower flies, hummingbirds, honey bees and wild (or native) bees. Wisconsin has hundreds of types of native bees – some of which include – bumble bees, green sweat bees, mason bees, polyester bees, and bumble bees – to name just a few.
- Next come some interesting facts about native (solitary) bees – unlike honey bees, native bees live alone or in very small groups - 70% of all native bees are ground nesters, and 30% nest in hollow stems or wood.
- Solitary bees are docile and seldom sting unless threatened.
- Bumble bees may nest in old mouse holes. Their colonies are small compared to honey bees with only 50 to 400 – less than 1% the size of a honey bee colony.
- Bees rely on pollen and nectar for food – the nutritional content of different pollens varies. Bees do better where more flower species are in bloom throughout spring, summer and fall. Small bees don't travel far to forage so they need flowers near their nests.

The next section explains how to improve nesting habitats.

- Leave things a little messy. Wild bees nest in old rodent burrows, cavities, abandoned bird nests, hollow plant stems, downed logs and leaf litter.
- Plant native bunch grasses like little bluestem. Bumble bees and solitary bees will nest under the tussocks.
- Avoid disturbing existing ground nests. They may look like ant hills, so watch who's occupying the nests before you destroy it.
- Use caution with homemade or store-bought bee nests. They can harbor pathogens if not properly maintained and may be colonized by wasps and other insects.

The next consideration is plantings.

- Choose plants that are suited to your geographic region, soil and climate conditions.
- Include flowering plants native to your area. (Native plants tend to attract and support more pollinators, and are usually low-maintenance.)



Bumblebee on Zinnia WI DATCP

continues



Karner Blue Butterfly

- Avoid flower varieties that are double-flowered or otherwise highly modified by breeding. These flowers often have little pollen or nectar.
- Some butterfly species require specific plants: Monarch butterfly caterpillars only eat milkweeds (*Aesclepias spp.*), and Karner blue butterfly caterpillars only eat lupines (*Lupinus spp.*)
- Aim to have at least 3 flowering plant species blooming from early spring to late fall. Select a variety of flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables, trees and shrubs.
- Let your herb garden bloom. Pollinators love flowering mint, lavender, basil, oregano, garlic, chives, and parsley.
- Let dandelions, clover and other flowering plants bloom in your lawn. These plants provide food early in the season when most other plants aren't yet flowering.

Next comes a section that is highly sensitive – pesticide use.

- Identify pests and assess the damage. The University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC) has resources to help you identify pests and determine if action is warranted. (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>)
- Pay attention to pesticide labels that say **highly toxic to bees**, **toxic to bees**, or **extended residual toxicity**.
- Choose products and mixes that are less toxic to pollinators, using available online tools. “Products” include fungicides and organic pesticides.
- If you’re using pesticides in your yard or garden, remember that the label is the law.
- Before applying insecticides to your lawn, mow to remove clover or dandelion blooms that might attract pollinators.

And last, one of the most important things you can do to protect pollinators in your lawn and garden is to spread the word. The more neighbors protecting pollinators, the bigger the impact. Get involved in organizations like those below.

- Participate in the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge: <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>
- Advertise your pollinator-friendly lawn: <http://www.xerces.org/nrcs-pollinator-habitat-sign/>
- Learn to identify honey bees, wild bees, flies and wasps:
[http://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/bothered by bees wasps.pdf](http://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu/files/bothered%20by%20bees%20wasps.pdf)
- Participate in citizen science projects: <http://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>, <http://www.greatsunflower.org/>,
<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>

Much of the information above has been pulled directly from the PPP. But this is just the start. There are three more of these informative BMPs--one for beekeepers, one for farmers and one for anyone who manages open spaces. To learn more, visit the full Pollinator

Protection Plan Resources page [HERE](#).

To get the full impact of the PPP, I highly encourage you to take a little time and view the associated Power Point and YouTube video:

- Power Point – https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/PPPResources.aspx (Note: when you click on this link it will download a PPT file to your computer. Locate that file and click on it to open the PPT.)
- Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIJDkAZXNxU&list=PLThnrUnLTPAP5xhH2xoRSbzTYauD_8l_x&index=2

You may be aware of much of the information presented here. But chances are you also know someone who is not. It would be great if you discussed these principles with family, friends and neighbors. After all, we're all in this together.

Mary Kay Thompson



Pollinator Snippet: Rare Cuckoo Bee Found in Wisconsin

Forest Service scientists working on a bee inventory in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest this summer netted a surprise. Three male bees they gathered while the bees foraged on black-eyed susans beside a forest road were identified as an extremely rare variety of cuckoo bee, *Epeoloides pilosulus*. (Cuckoo bees are called that because they lay their eggs in other bees' nests.) This is only the fourth confirmed sighting of *Epeoloides pilosulus* since the beginning of 2002, and the first confirmed sighting in Wisconsin in more than a century. For many years, the bee was believed to be extinct!

Tracking Migrating Pollinators

Hummingbird Banding: Saturday, September 7, 7:30am - ?

Monarch Tagging: Saturday, September 14. Program at 1:00, tagging to follow.
Cancelled if it rains.

These events take place at 11703 East Berg Road in Whitewater. For more information, you can contact Emily and Larry Scheunemann at schmann65@gmail.com. Families welcome.





**RPMGA August Education Event:
Tour of Agrecol Native Seed and Plant Nursery
Thursday, September 12, 10 a.m.**

Founded in 1991, Agrecol produces high quality native seed and plants. They also restore, design, install, maintain and consult on native plantings and offer specialty erosion control systems and stormwater management.

One of the great things about Agrecol: they have more than 200 native local ecotype species available, grown from remnant foundation collections gathered primarily here in southeastern Wisconsin. The seed is certified by the Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association for purity, origin and germination. This allows them and their customers to create diverse plant communities that meet conservation, biodiversity and education goals. The nursery grows mono-cultures of each species as row crops or solid seeded stands.

Though they have a number of processing and growing farms and gardens, we will be visiting the greenhouse at 7900 W Caledonia Road, Edgerton. Following our tour (about 1 hour), assistant greenhouse manager Avery Johnson will have plants available for purchase for anyone interested in buying. For more on Agrecol, and for great native plant information, visit their website at Agrecol.com.

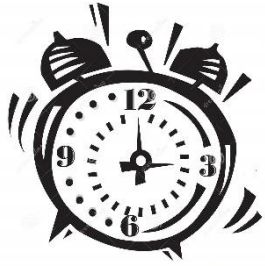
This is an approved continuing education event. Master Gardener Volunteers and interns will receive one (1) Continuing Education Unit (CEU) for each hour of participation.

To carpool from Janesville: meet at the Rock County Extension office at 9:15 a.m. (3506 N. Highway 51, Building A, Janesville) Thursday morning. It's about a 20 minute drive. Tour begins at 10 a.m.

To go directly to Agrecol: the address is 7900 W. Caledonia Rd., Edgerton.

Next Month: UW Arboretum Expert on Jumping Worms

Our program for Thursday, October 3 will take place in the evening at Rotary Gardens. Brad Herrick from the UW-Madison Arboretum will be updating us on the latest research results on invasive jumping worms and the glimmers of hope for ways to control them. Save the date and watch your in-box for the exact time!



Only 30 Days to Online Reporting Deadline!

Time is passing...October 1 is just around the corner. To recertify as a Master Gardener Volunteer for 2020, you must enter your hours by October 1 in the new Online Reporting System on the statewide master gardener program website. The requirements are a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer time on approved projects and 10 hours of continuing education from reliable sources. For now, you can still include travel time to and from your volunteer events (though not for education events).

You're probably already registered in the Reporting System at this point and have at least begun entering your hours. To add to what you already have, access the system at <https://wimastergardener.org/report-your-hours>. That same address includes a series of videos which will walk you through entering your data (counts for .6 education hours if you view them all). If you have questions about a particular project or exactly how to enter something, contact Rock County's point person for this project, Beverly Feltz (pengnix@yahoo.com). Don't delay! If you wait for September 30 and then have questions, it may be like trying to get tax advice on April 14.

Drop-In Workshop No paper forms will be accepted. If you don't have access to a computer at home, or if you are really lost, write up your hours and bring them to the Online Reporting System Workshop in the Walworth County Government Building (the courthouse—100 W Walworth) in Elkhorn on Tuesday, September 10, between 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

This is a drop-in session—come when you can. It'll be one-on-one help, unless several people come at the same time with the same kind of question. If you have your data, you'll be able to enter it then and there.

If you can't make the 10th, contact either Bev Feltz (address above) or our Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill at julie.hill@wisc.edu. (Contact Julie as well if something is preventing you from completing your 24 and 10 hours by October 1, but you still want to be part of the Master Gardener Volunteer program.)

Reminder: After October 1, you will not be able to count travel time in any of your hours.

ORS Drop-in Workshop

Tuesday, September 10

2:30-6:00 p.m.

Walworth County Government Building

Lower Level Training Center

100 W. Walworth

Elkhorn, WI



Rotary Gardens Events:

Fall Plant Sale Weekend, September 12-15

Celebrate the changing seasons with beautiful additions to your garden from Rotary's Fall Plant Sale. Want the best selection? The members-only presale takes place Thursday 9/12, from 4 - 7 p.m. You can become a member at the pre-sale. Members get a 10% discount throughout the sale (must show membership card). On Friday and Saturday 9/13 and 9/14, the sale runs from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. On Sunday 9/15, hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Items on offer includes mums, asters, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and compost. There won't be any shrubs this time. (Sorry, also, no clearance sale on Monday 8/16.)

Extended Mum Sale: Rotary is trying something different this year with the Fall Plant Sale, adding three extra Saturdays where they will be selling mums from 9 am to noon on 9/7, 9/21, and 9/28. They need two volunteers for each Saturday.

Volunteer opportunities related to the Fall Plant Sale: To volunteer for any plant sale date, go to <https://signup.com/go/KHTEZR> or call or email Laura Peterson at Rotary: 608-314-8415. They particularly need loaders and people who can work in the yard, talking with people, educating them on the plants and helping match plants to places in customers' yards. Rotary would be very grateful for your help if you have some time to spare! (If you are going to cashier, there will be a training session on Wednesday 9/4 at 1 pm. If you can't make it, let Laura know.)

Rotary also needs people to water on Saturdays through mid-October. Contact Laura Peterson if you can help (608-314-8415).

Rotary's Dazzling Dragonflies to Be Auctioned September 19

You've got about two more weeks to catch this year's community art project, Dazzling Dragonflies, at Rotary Gardens. The dragonfly cutouts were decorated by local artists and will remain on display throughout the gardens til Friday, September 13th. But don't despair--if you fall in love with one, you can bid on it during the dragonfly auction on Thursday, the 19th, and maybe take your favorite home. The preview of items up for bid begins at 5:30 p.m., with the auction itself starting at 6:00. (Please arrive early enough to get a bidder number.)



All the Best. Hope to See You Soon!

Best Wishes to Mark Dwyer, whose 21-year tenure as the Horticulture Director at Rotary Gardens ended on August 31. His skill with people; his expertise as a garden designer, educator and plantsman; and his generous spirit will all be missed!

New Threats to Be Aware Of

Disease Pest: Did you or anyone you know buy azaleas or rhododendrons this season? If yes, please monitor the plants for leaf and/or shoot die-back, which may be symptoms of a blight fungus called *Phytophthora ramorum*. The real problem is the pathogen can spread easily to other plants, trees and shrubs, and it is fatal to oak trees. Sudden oak death has killed 30-45 *million* oaks in California and Oregon. And the fungus has been confirmed at one nursery in Wisconsin, received in a shipment of plants from out west.

Spores from the disease can travel in plants; soil, gravel and potting mixes; and wind-blown rain and other water sources. Contaminated pots, shovels, and other equipment could also transmit the disease unless sterilized with bleach. Suspect plants should be sent the University of Wisconsin – Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic. There is no cost. For information about how to submit a sample, visit <https://pddc.wisc.edu>.

Insect Pest: The lily leaf beetle, *Lilioceris lillii*, is relatively new in Wisconsin and has not yet been confirmed in Rock County, though it has been verified in Dane County. This bright red beetle and its larvae feed on true lilies, fritillaries, flowering tobacco and Solomon's seal. It doesn't affect daylilies, cannas or callas, which are not true lilies. The larvae can be either green or orange, but they have the nasty habit of covering themselves with their own feces to make themselves less attractive to predators. The adults overwinter in the soil and emerge

about the same time as lily foliage to lay bright orange eggs on the undersides of plant leaves. Since the beetles are believed to have arrived in lily bulbs, keep an eye out if you buy any this fall (or any of the other host plants) and help spread the word. If you think you have lily leaf beetles, please contact either P.J. Liesch at UW's Insect Diagnostic Lab (pliesch@wisc.edu) or Liz Meils at Dept of Ag., Trade and Consumer Protection DATCPNursery@wisconsin.gov.



Adult lily leaf beetle
Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of CT



Larval stage shown plain and covered with excrement to deter predators.

Notable Education Opportunities

2019 Master Composter Training: There's still time to sign up for the Master Composter workshop this Fall. The class is for anyone who wishes to teach others about home composting, including backyard composting and vermicomposting. Training takes place at the Dane County Extension office in Madison on two 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, 608-224-3718.



Ask a Fruit Crop Specialist: The seasonal Wisconsin Horticulture Updates take place on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. The specialist for the September 6 WHU is Amaya Atucha, who will use her time to answer fruit questions sent to her in advance. To get your question answered, forward it to <https://tinyurl.com/AskAmaya>. Note: the 2019 updates continue through September 27.

WIMGA's Superstar Training: Open to all MGVs. Registration deadline is Sept 5. \$15 includes snacks and lunch, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Madison Date is Sat. Sept 14, at the UW's Horticulture Building, 1575 Linden Drive, Madison (also in Wausau on Sept 12 and Altoona on Sept 20) Morning session will be on Growing Our Social Media Network with Mike Maddox, afternoon will be Janet Mangold on Becoming a Rock Star Educator. Link to more info and registration form: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n007YmcxtXdwTP36MngGvLqRyeqC1Z1W/view>

Level 3 MGV training: Placemaking Lite will help you learn how to think about MG projects in a new way to connect them to research, goals, and community needs. Offered beginning in January 2020. It's all done online at your own pace and you have till October 1, 2020 to complete it. Register before the end of 2019. Earns 6 hours of CEU and costs \$25. Registration info in the next Volunteer Vibe newsletter from the state MG program office.

September Education Calendar

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

UWA = UW Arboretum, Madison; SCMGA = Souk County Master Gardener Association, Reedsburg; OBG = Olbrich Botanical Garden, Madison; RPMGA = Rock Prairie Master Gardener Assn, Janesville; IPG = Intrinsic Perennial Garden, Hebron, IL; MFAI = Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, East Troy; WEC = Welty Environmental Center, Beloit; SP = Silverwood Park, Edgerton; NATC = Nature at the Confluence, South Beloit, IL; WHPS = WI Hardy Plant Society, Madison; AJG = Anderson Japanese Garden, Rockford, IL; NCG = Nicholas Conservatory Garden, Rockford, IL.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fall Flowers Grady Oak Savannah and Greene Prairie UWA/Garden Excursion Walk UWA	2 <i>Labor Day</i>	3	4	5	6 Industrial Hemp Production Field Day MFAI	7 Sauk County Horticulture Field Days SCMGA
8 Curtis Prairie Walk UWA/Fungus Among Us UWA	9	10 Online Reporting System Drop-in Workshop (see info above in article on ORS Deadline)	11	12 Agrecol Native Plant Nursery Tour RPMGA/ Introduction to Night Photo- graphy OBG	13 Ornamental Grasses Day IPG/ CBD Hemp Field Day MFAI	14 Fall in the Native Plant Garden UWA/Wild Edible and Poisonous Plant Hike WEC/ Harvest Festival and Tour SP
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

Grady Grasslands Walk UWA/ Monarch Magic: The Amazing Journey of the Monarch Super Generation NATC		Night Photography Photo Shoot OBG	Preserving Rare Plants and Dealing with Invasive Species in the Midwest WHPS	Tyler Zwiegert: Internship in a Japanese Garden AJG		Hosta Heaven OBG
22 Autumn Woodlands Walk UWA	23	24 Night Photography Photo Shoot OBG	25 Putting Your Garden to Bed Walk OBG	26 Outdoor Garden Tour NCG	27	28
29	30					

Looking Ahead to October

The following events occur early in October, but require registration in September. Classes take place at Olbrich Botanical Gardens unless otherwise noted.

Dane County Urban Forestry Workshop, Tuesday, October 1, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location: Dane County UW Extension Office 5201 Fen Oak Dr., Madison, WI. Early registration deadline (save!): September 9, final registration deadline: September 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Overwintering Tropicals at Home, Tuesday, October 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Registration deadline: September 24.

Grow Beautiful African Violets, Wednesday, October 2, 1-2:30 p.m. Registration deadline: September 25.

50 Best Plants for Birds Saturday, October 5, 1-2:30 p.m. Registration deadline: September 27.

Orchids for Beginners Monday, October 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Registration deadline: September 30.

Fall Garden Highlights and Lights Walk, Monday, October 7, 6-7:30 p.m. Registration deadline: September 30.

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