



# Master Gardener Update

## September 2020

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### Virtual Visit

## Paine Art Center and Gardens, Oshkosh

*RPMGA meetings and tours are still on hold. So we continue to bring you virtual tours of some gardens that we either would—or could—have visited.*



The Paine Art Center and Gardens is a preserved historic estate with a mansion and gardens located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It includes public art galleries and botanic gardens on 3 acres, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### The Founders' Vision

When Nathan and Jessie Kimberly Paine began planning their new home in the mid-1920's, they envisioned more than a house, but an elaborate setting in the style of

## Websites

### For Rock County

#### MGV info:

rock.extension.wisc.edu/  
upcoming-events-and-  
volunteer-opportunities/  
OR

fyi.extension.wisc.edu/  
mgvrockco/rock-prairie-  
association/

#### 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

an English country estate. Located only a few blocks from the Fox River and Lake Butte des Morts, the property was once the family's cow pasture. When the Paines settled on this location, the land was vacant and had several majestic oak trees that Nathan admired. He envisioned a house that appeared to be carved out of the woods, and as the plans for the Tudor Revival-style house developed, he oversaw the planting of five hundred trees, mostly evergreens, that triple-ringed the property and created a secluded glade.

Sadly, the Depression and WWII disrupted their plans, and the Paines never actually lived in the mansion. But after the war, they continued developing the property as a museum, rather than a home. It opened it to the public in 1948. At that time, it was called the Paine Art Center and Arboretum, with "arboretum" referring to the predominance of trees as well as shrubs and vines. However, over time, the original landscape design waned as aging, diseased, and damaged trees needed to be removed. The grounds evolved into a series of interconnected gardens reminiscent of English country estates. Although the landscape design has evolved, Nathan and Jessie Kimberly Paine's pride in their English heritage continues to be reflected in various plant materials and garden designs.

*continues on page 10*



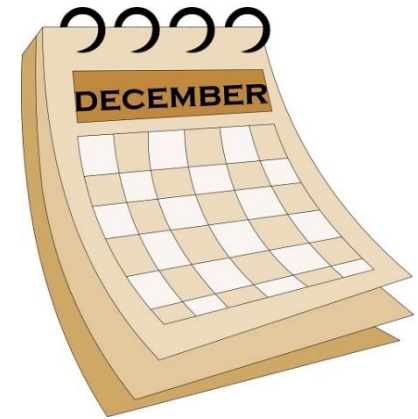
*Paine Art Center and Gardens  
founders: lumber baron  
Nathan Paine and his wife,  
Jessie Kimberly Paine,  
daughter of one of the  
founders of the paper  
company Kimberly-Clark.*

## MGV Deadline Change: Hours Not Due till December 31.

Normally at this time of year, we'd be reminding you to get your education and volunteer hours turned in by the end of the month if you want to recertify and a master gardener volunteer for 2021. But this is not a normal year.

First, with all the restrictions surrounding the corona virus, you are not *required* to have any volunteer hours to recertify as an MGV for 2021. You only need the 10 hours of continuing education. (Though if you have been volunteering at an approved activity or site, please do report those hours!)

Second, the MGV program is shifting its reporting year to the calendar year. **The new reporting deadline is December 31 each year, beginning in 2020.** So by December 31 of this year, you should report all the hours you accrued starting on October 1, 2019 right up through the end of this year (15 months). After that, you'll be recertified as a master gardener volunteer for January through December each year.



### RPMGA Dues Deadline Change?

With the state MGV program switching to a calendar year cycle, our local association should consider shifting to a calendar year cycle as well. To do that, though, we have to change our bylaws, which currently require that dues be paid by October 1.

Making that change is a bit of a process. The document specifies that

“These bylaws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3’s) vote of the members present at any general membership meeting provided the amendment(s) is either submitted in writing to the membership 30 days prior to the meeting or presented for an announced open discussion at the meeting prior to the one met for action on the amendment(s).”

Since the announcement from the state is so recent, we haven't had time to draft any changes yet. Please be a little patient and keep an eye on your inbox for announcements related to dues and bylaw changes.

## Rotary Gardens Fall Plant Sale

For their Fall Plant Sale, Rotary Gardens is going back to the traditional in-person format. They're looking for volunteers to help staff the sale. Please note that the sale is not a non-contact activity, so you may not claim these hours for MGV volunteering. But if you're comfortable with being at the sale while wearing a mask and maintaining your social distance, choose your shift at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/547007747001936012/false#/invitation>



RBG HORTICULTURE CENTER 825 SHARON ROAD, JANESVILLE

MUMS • PERENNIALS • COMPOST • ASTERS • KALE

### MUMS ONLY:

SEPTEMBER 5; 9 AM - 12 PM

### MEMBERS ONLY SALE

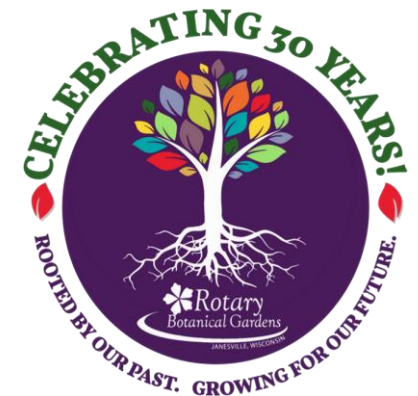
SEPTEMBER 10; 4 PM – 7 PM

### FALL PLANT SALE

SEPTEMBER 11-12; 9 AM - 5 PM

SEPTEMBER 13; 10 AM - 4 PM

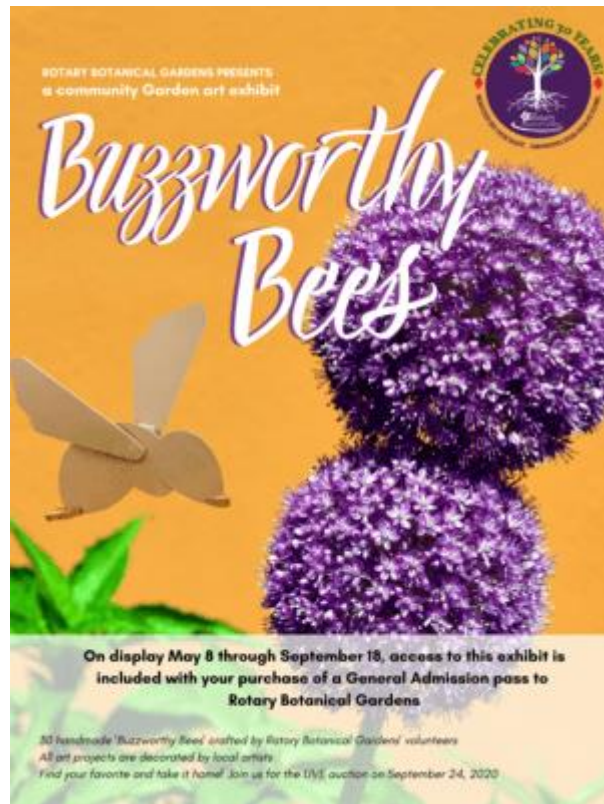
Questions? 608-752-3885  
RotaryBotanicalGardens.org





## What's In Bloom Garden Tour on September 23

Rotary's Director of Horticulture Mike Jesioloski has been leading monthly tours of the garden. The next date for this event will be Wednesday evening, September 23 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The tour is free for Rotary members or \$10 for non-members. Limited to 20 people. Register by calling 608-752-3885 or stopping in at the Garden Gallery shop.



## Garden Art Auction, Thursday, September 24

Take home your favorite Buzzworthy Bee! The live Garden Art Auction will conclude Rotary's 2020 'Buzzworthy Bees' Garden Art exhibit. The public is invited to bid on their favorite bees. All funds raised will help to sustain Rotary Botanical Gardens. Please arrive with enough time to secure a bidder number.

*Event time to be determined. Please check Rotary's website for details.*



## Update on Unsolicited Seeds from China

The US Dept. of Agriculture has received over 9000 emails about the mystery seeds sent to US consumers in packages that appear to come from China (or possibly other countries). They've identified some of the seeds, and the good news is that so far most appear to be harmless. A couple of samples have included seeds of noxious weeds (dodder and water spinach) and one sample included the larva of a leaf beetle that's already a common pest here. But most of the seeds have not yet been tested, and advice for handling the packages remains the same:

- Do not plant the seeds. If they arrive in a sealed packet, don't open the packet
- Save the seeds and all parts of the original packaging if you can.
- Report your receipt of the package through the Wisconsin DATCP using this online form: <https://bit.ly/DATCPUnsolicitedSeedPackages>
- Wait for instructions from state or federal officials on what to do with the materials.



Photo: Reuters

## Virtual Chats, September 9 and 23

Grab your favorite cuppa and join other master gardeners for updates and conversation. The virtual (zoom) coffee/tea talks this month are scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesdays, **September 9 and 23**. Julie Hill will continue to send out an email with a registration link at least two days before the meeting.

Send her pictures of interesting (or mysterious) things from your own garden to share with others. Meet some of your counterparts in Walworth County and some of the new MGVs that just completed the level 1 class. It's always fun.



## Approved Volunteer Opportunities



### *Ask a Master Gardener Facebook Live Sessions*

These weekly online sessions continue through September. There are lots of open spots to sign up and join one of these weekly on-line programs offered by Hedberg Public Library in Janesville and Aram Public Library in Delevan. To sign up online, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b45acab29a7fa7-library> or email: [julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu). If you'd like to preview a program, past editions are available at each library's Facebook page.

You can also report a half hour of continuing education time for viewing the recorded presentations.

### *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 MGV 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 (see next article)

New to the approved list is **Silverwood Park** near Edgerton. Technically it's in Dane County, but they draw volunteers from Rock, Walworth and Jefferson Counties as well. 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. More gardens are in the approval stage. Watch your email for more info, or contact Julie ([julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu)) about getting approval for any other garden you're interested in. You can also volunteer at approved gardens in other counties. (Walworth County has quite a few—ask Julie!)

Note: The Merrill Community Sharing Garden in Beloit has some upcoming workdays on Saturday, September 12 and Saturday, October 3. See their Facebook page for details if you'd like to volunteer.

## Online Training Coming Up in September and Beyond

### Are You Volunteering This Year? COVID Training Video *Required!*

If you are participating in any MG volunteer opportunity outside your home, COVID safety is a priority for everyone involved. That's why this 17-minute YouTube video from the University of Wisconsin is required training (plus you can claim a half hour of continuing education for it). Please follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLUd9lyMGO8&feature=youtu.be>

### Growing Healthy Plants: Basics in Plant Disease Management with Brian Hudelson Wednesday, September 2, 2-3:30 p.m.

Hurry! Sign up right away or you'll miss this on-line education opportunity! Dr. Brian Hudelson the Director of the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic, takes an in-depth look at diseases in the garden and what you can do to manage them. Learn tips that will help you take care of your plants for the remainder of this growing season, and also help you be better equipped for next growing season. The program is free, but registration is required. After you register, an email with connection information will be sent to you. Register: [https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3JXAeKj2qvFPLj7?fbclid=IwAR11G73gfb3w90I47f\\_QIlezcwri5O3dDB3UK4www4zkwQwvsEEhT6yYPQE](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3JXAeKj2qvFPLj7?fbclid=IwAR11G73gfb3w90I47f_QIlezcwri5O3dDB3UK4www4zkwQwvsEEhT6yYPQE)

### Intro to Horticultural Therapy with Mike Maddox Wednesday, September 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Mike (Outreach Program Manager for the Master Gardener Program) will provide an introduction to Horticultural Therapy and how simple gardening projects can be related to improving well-being in yourself and others.

**No need to sign up! All Walworth and Rock County Master Gardener Volunteers can follow this link:**

<https://uwextension.zoom.us/j/94803393194?pwd=VlhLS2hoZEYxL2pOK05XVTBodmF0QT09>

Meeting ID: 948 0339 3194

Passcode: 607664





## Wisconsin Hort Update

**Most Fridays through September, 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

No program on Sept 4, but these weekly updates continue on September 11, 18 and 25. Extension county educators from around the state check in on phenology and plant diagnostic reports. Programs also include updates from the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic and Insect Diagnostic Lab. Updates take place Fridays at 9:30 a.m., lasting no more than 1 hour, on YouTube. (And count for 1 hour of continuing education for each program.) To watch an update live, look for the YouTube link on this web page:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Z2m-9zGHbKdm56cD5xL-B4W05hdpJP4kDf1QO\\_LLbc/](https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Z2m-9zGHbKdm56cD5xL-B4W05hdpJP4kDf1QO_LLbc/). (Note: a different link is used each week, so check each time. Clicking on the link for a date that has already passed will let you view the recorded program.)



### Fall workshops with Mark Dwyer

Through UW-Whitewater: Mark is offering three online classes in September and October: Ornamental Grasses and Late Season Perennials (Sept. 19), 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 Maximizing Late Season Color & Preparing for Spring (9/26), 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.

### MGV Level 2 training

Find these online at [wimastergardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org), under the Learn tab. New(ish) topics: Pollinators in Action, Orchards, Perennial Vegetables, Organic Gardening Techniques. Plus many others. Watch, read, take the quiz and you get 2 hours of CE.

### Watch Your Email for New Announcements

Often, new online training pops up in the middle to the end of the month, so be sure to read your emails from Julie, or you may miss something really good!

## The Paine Art Center and Gardens Virtual Visit, continued

The Field Station is a special area of the gardens with nature activities designed for children and their families. Explore science and literacy activities in the playhouse, or put on a performance with musical instruments and props on the stage. In addition, there is an outdoor digging station, a balance beam, and nature sensory tables for children and their families to discover the joy of outdoor play together.

The sweeping Front Lawn (pictured on page 1) provides a dramatic view of the Paine mansion. Each year, the beds along the balustrade extending over to the mansion's public entrance feature a different dramatic display of blooming bulbs in the spring followed by a new spectacular combination of annuals throughout the summer and autumn.



New Formal Garden – (left) During the summer of 2017, the Paine constructed a new elaborate formal garden. The garden is located along the Paine property's eastern border adjacent to the new conservatory-style building, which was constructed in 2012.

Evening Terrace – (right) Receiving sunlight into the evening, this elevated terrace is an informally designed garden with an undulating perennial border that creates a foyer-like space around the original main entrance to the house. The flowers complement the yellow Kasota limestone and violet and amber shades of the window panes.







Morning Terrace – (left) This elevated space holds a monochromatic garden. A traditional Victorian style it features a palette of white, gray and silver foliage, which keeps the garden bright late into the evening. This design style is often called a ‘moon garden’ because it also catches the moonlight

Great Lawn – (right) This sweeping emerald carpet provides a breathtaking view of the mansion. Not simply a yard, the Great Lawn includes undulating borders with a wide variety of trees and shrubs. Spring bulbs, perennials, ground covers, and annuals accent the lawn’s border. A long and wide stone pathway transects the space and creates a dramatic path-



way to and from the mansion.



Shade Garden – (left) The design of the Shade Garden resembles the Woodland Path on the opposite border of the estate, but incorporates exotic plants and new hybrids rather than those native to the state. “Roman Head” by Wisconsin artist Leo Smith is visible from various vantage points and demonstrates the effective use of sculpture to create interesting and surprising views within a garden.



Rose Garden – (right) The Paines were especially fond of roses, which have long been used in English heraldry, and gave them prominence in the plan for their version of an English country estate. Roses are selected for the garden based on their hardiness to this area’s climate, and they are complemented by a variety of perennials. With a central reflecting pool, the garden is bordered with barberry and arborvitae hedges, and the façade of the Tool Shed provides an impressive backdrop.



Birch Grove – (left) To the north of the Rose Garden and stretching into the Great Lawn, this garden transitions from a shady grove of birch trees to a sunny area with a wide variety of flowering bulbs, like daffodils and lilies, as well as ground covers with different texture.



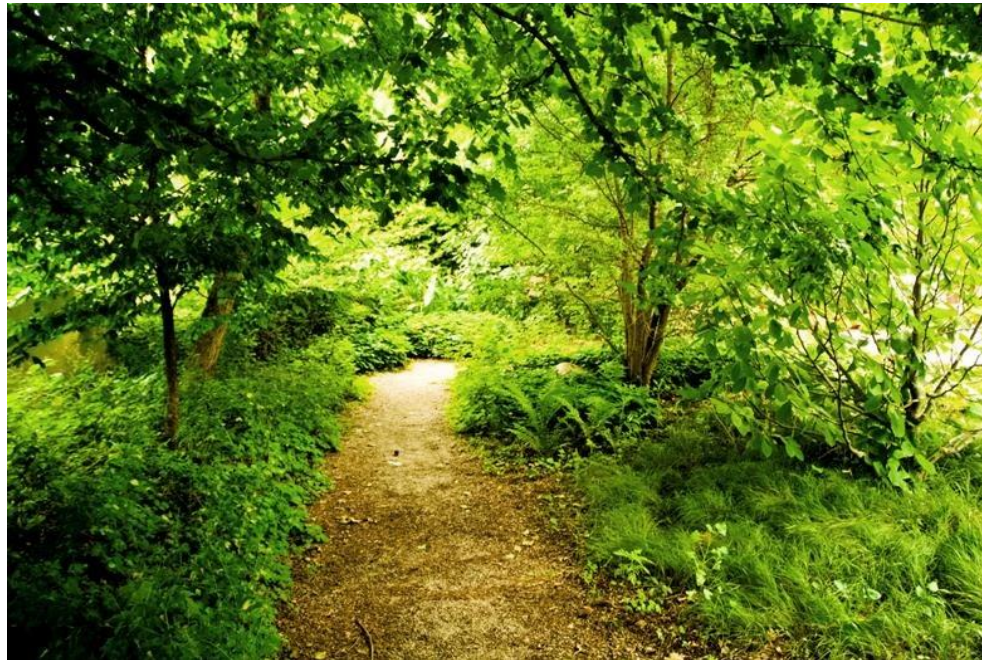
U.S. Bank Garden – (right) This garden takes advantage of Wisconsin’s four seasons by highlighting plants with brilliant colors and textures that peak in autumn. A meandering pathway winds through ornamental grasses, asters, anemones, and blooming perennials, as well as the sculpture “bloom” by artist Kim Cridler.



Mark L. Tremble Garden – (left) Radiating out from a central reflecting pool, this garden provides an oasis for birds. The various perennials, shrubs, and trees offer nectar, berries, and protection for “fine feathered friends.” The pergola frames the view west, toward the Ceremony Garden.



Ceremony Garden – (right) Designed especially for weddings, this oval garden features an outer border with an array of plants in white, pastel, and lace-like highlights. The inner border changes each year with flowering bulbs in the spring and then annuals during the remainder of the garden season. The pergola with Tuscan columns serves as a romantic backdrop for many marriages each year.



Woodland Path – (left) Plants that are native to Wisconsin's shady woodlands, including many specimens of trees and wildflowers, border this winding path. Many of the wildflowers are spring ephemerals, like bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, and trilliums, which bloom for a short time early in the spring and then die back.





Pennau & Below Garden - Tucked next to the Limousine Garage, the circular design of this intimate and shady space is repeated in the adjoining gardens to the east. Each year the central container and inner and outer rings feature a different combination of shade-loving annuals. The container also anchors the long view from the east across the other circular gardens.

**Paine Art Center and Gardens**

1410 Algoma Blvd.  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

(920) 235-6903

[www.thepaine.org](http://www.thepaine.org)

Open by Reservation Only for Now (During Covid Restrictions)

Regular Hours: Tuesday-Saturday – 10 AM to 4 PM, Sunday – 10 AM to 7 PM, Closed Mondays

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