



**Newsletter**

# WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## Add a Water Garden

**W**ater features create inviting areas in our landscapes, offering a spot to stop and stare, to gaze at the rippling movement, to watch fish glide gracefully beneath the surface, to refocus on surface reflections. Water draws us in. It brings a sense of calm.

Water gardens often bring sound. The gurgling and splashing of a waterfall or fountain provide a soothing effect. You can buy electronic devices to play the sound of water inside your homes, but how much nicer to lie in a hammock and listen to it live.

Big or small, simple or elaborate, there are many ways to bring water into a landscape. A half-barrel water garden can provide a home for a few small

fish and a water plant. Small prefab water features recirculate water through a cascade of mini waterfalls. Creative gardeners have devised their own versions with sealed pots or old galvanized buckets and tubs.

The next step up is a larger in-ground pond made of precast material. These are suited to a few larger fish and perhaps an extra plant or two. When you are officially hooked, you'll find that the sky is the limit, as larger ponds and elaborate rock waterfalls can really turn a plain landscape area into a wonderfully elegant one.

Water plants include submerged plants, such as water lilies; and marginal or bog plants, such as papyrus, Louisiana iris, and cannas that grow near the edge of the pond. There are a multitude of great plants for poorly drained soil conditions that you can use to beautify the area in and around your water garden.

Before taking the plunge into creating a water feature do some investigating. Books, magazines, and Web sites offer



instruction and inspiration. The larger your project the more you'll be investing and the more you need to know before you begin. Companies that sell or install water features, fish, and plants are usually quite knowledgeable and willing to help you do your homework on the best options for your landscape setting and goals.

If you live near a city, there is likely a water gardening club or society from which to draw guidance. These people are more than happy to offer wisdom and advice, and many will open their gardens to visitors.

Water gardens offer so much to almost any landscape plan. Visit a few in your area or online and plan a water feature for your landscape this year. Think of it as a therapeutic investment.

— from <http://www.garden.org/regional/report/arch/inmygarden/4513>

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## Building a Thriving Hive

— Lynn Caine, Portage Co. MGV

**F**inding leaders for your MGA is a lot like being the queen bee in Wisconsin. Over the winter all the workers die out and you are left every spring to bring the “hive” back to life.

The first order of business is usually trying to find new board members. Many of these members will also be your committee chair people. We have found in Portage County that the word “chair” is often the limiting factor. No one wants to be the one and only person responsible for an entire association or committee. The chairperson job description was “overseeing all aspects, projects and members of the association.” Who wouldn’t jump at the chance for that position!

So, we changed our bylaws and created a governing board. We still have titles like co-chair, secretary, treasurer, but the responsibility and decision making are done as a board of 5-7 members. The two co-chairs run the meeting, are the

contact people for the outside public, and direct information to the appropriate committees. One is more responsible for meetings and the other watches over the treasury. This allows the treasurer to have a partner in writing checks and collecting money at events. The treasurer keeps the checkbook, watches over the budget and deposits money. The secretary works hand in hand with the other co-chair to set the meeting agenda, answer mail and remind the board of unfinished business.

Each committee is given a budget. They are responsible to organize their event, recruit help and make decisions. Many of these committees also run as a group with no one person having to do it all. Members often are willing to do a part of the project. Break the event down into smaller pieces with defined roles. It’s easier to ask someone to teach for one hour on a Tuesday morning with preschool children than it is to ask them to set up an

educational program for 20 students every Tuesday in the summer.

As your members become more comfortable with a small role often times they will then take on a larger role. If they are only happy in their niche, it is one less thing that you need to do. We have also found that if members know exactly what you are asking them to do they are more willing to help. Write things down, break them into responsibilities, and divide the project into manageable parts. The most important part is having someone to talk with and make decisions with, so the volunteer is not left alone and overwhelmed.

Our board meetings are on a monthly basis but if a request or need arises we communicate by email. Depending on the situation either a decision is made or the information is forwarded to the appropriate committee.

Like our queen bee, once the hive is humming and the workers are buzzing, we can sit back and enjoy a thriving community filled with honey. And before the winter sets in, we will probably create a few more “queens” to carry on.

### Regional Master Gardener Conference - Wisconsin Dells

Don't forget to register for this exciting conference hosted by WIMGA right in our own backyards! Take advantage of the convenient location (it only occurs in Wisconsin every 8 years; other times you'll have to travel to Illinois, Iowa, or Minnesota) to enjoy connecting with MGVs from other states and learn about gardening, volunteerism and leadership. All details are on the official conference website:

<https://midwestmgconference.wordpress.com/>

# Joint Effort Results in Split Rail Fence for Sturtevant Community Garden

—by Rose Woodruff, Racine-Kenosha MG

The Sturtevant Beautification Committee, an official project of the Racine/Kenosha Master Gardener Program, completed the installation this spring of a split-rail fence for its community garden. The fence is intended to discourage wildlife and protect the hard work of the 12 garden plots' owners who plant and harvest an array of fresh produce which is shared with others in the area whenever possible.

Spearheaded by MGVs Rose Woodruff and Linda Busha, founding members of the Sturtevant Beautification Committee, the MGVs partnered with the Sturtevant Department of Public Works. If they could raise the \$1,200 needed for the materials, the DPW agreed to provide free labor to build the fence. In addition to the \$400 grant from the WIMGA, they received a

grant of \$500 from the Racine/Kenosha MGA and a \$500 grant from the Potpourri Garden Club. The partnership between MGVs and the Village of Sturtevant has made it possible for both to do more than either alone, enhancing the lives of their residents.

Encouraging residents to plant their own gardens, the MGVs offer occasional training programs on site to educate about growing and eating healthy foods. This year one of the programs will be a workshop to teach village residents about the importance of butterflies and other pollinating insects. A small butterfly garden built next to the community garden will be the demonstration



site for this program. Gardeners will be encouraged to plant pollen- and nectar-producing flowers along with the vegetables.



## How to Make a Garden Art Spinner

— by Jan Hartz and Deb Simons, Glacial Gardeners

**D**oes your garden need a little flair? Do you need a craft activity to share in your youth garden? Is there more to summer than weed, water, and prune? The Glacial Gardeners have found a way to add some fun. Let's make spinners!

Start by selecting an appealing color theme. Sometimes, contrasting the colors of the beads can make the spinner a little more interesting, such as opposites on the color wheel or those that are next to each other may also work well together-greens and blues for example. But, there are no rules.

Starting at the top of the spinner, attach one O ring to the O ring on the swivel. (The O ring should look like a cut off spring not like a single wire that meets at the top of the O).

Feed one end of the wire through the just attached O ring; using your pliers make a small U shape with the wire. Secure the wires to each other by feeding a bead with a hole large enough to encapsulate both wires together. Carefully, with the super glue place a bead of glue to hold the bead in place. Feed the remaining beads onto the wire varying color and size.

To complete the Spinner, choose another bead like the one you started with and repeat the process of securing the

wires inside the bead, leaving a small loop at the bottom of the bead.

To attach the weight, use pieces of floral wire, twisting the wire onto the desired object and then again to an O ring that has been fed onto the loop (that sticks out of your last bead).

While crafting may not be exactly "educational" it does add a lot of fun to gardening and keeps members interested in participating. It also draws people into the garden so they can learn about everything that is going on there.



### Materials and Tools Needed

- Memory Wire-found in the jewelry making section of craft stores (1/2 the packet)
- Colored, Assorted Size Acrylic Beads
- A weight such as a pendant, pine cones, a bell, old key(s)
- Jewelry pliers if you have them, or needle nose pliers
- "O" rings-found in the jewelry making section of craft stores
- One size 4 ball bearing swivel with interlock snap (found in the fishing section of most box stores)
- Super Glue
- Finger Nail Polish
- Metal Bead Spacers
- Floral Wire, gauge 26

# MGV Garden

## Harmony Arboretum

— N3890 County E, Peshtigo, WI

**M**aster Gardeners like to travel around the state and visit beautiful gardens. Tucked away in the Northeast corner of the state is Harmony Arboretum. Located 7 miles west of Marinette off of Hwy 64 is this 460-acre country farm. Included is a majestic hardwood forest, winding walking trails, a restored prairie and demonstration gardens.

The arboretum is always open and free to visit. It is owned by Marinette County but many groups such as UW extension, Marinette Land & Water Conservation, and Chappée Rapids Audubon society work to make it a great place.

Northern Lights MGV have a 3 acre display and demonstration garden within the arboretum protected by a wildlife-excluding fence. The UW-Extension 2016 Nature and Horticulture programs are held here and can be



found at [http://marinette.uwex.edu/files/2015/02/Hort-Series\\_2016-WEB.pdf](http://marinette.uwex.edu/files/2015/02/Hort-Series_2016-WEB.pdf)

The variety of gardens to be found include:

- Perennial garden at the entrance
- Formal herb garden with well over 100 different herbs
- 40 raised beds containing vegetables
- Shade garden
- Water feature
- Certified Monarch Waystation
- Enabling garden
- Childrens Learning Garden
- sensory garden
- wetlands

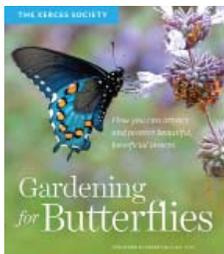
- beaver pond and lodge
- chipmunk tunnel
- living maze
- Glass hobby greenhouse
- Fruit Tree Orchard
- Bird Habitat
- Smaller demonstrations showing phenology, lawn establishment & management and pollinator habitats.

Each year the display and demonstration gardens change, whether it is due to environmental factors or the Master Gardeners themselves, it is constantly evolving. Visit often!



## New Butterfly Gardening Book

The 45-year-old Portland-based non-profit Xerces Society—named after the extinct Xerces blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche xerces*) and using “the knowledge of scientists and the enthusiasm of local citizens” to protect and educate about butterflies and other invertebrates and their habitats—recently released the book *Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects*.



This 288-page book is part science text and part explanation of the challenges

facing butterflies and other insects. It introduces you to a variety of butterflies who need our help, and provides suggestions for native plants to attract them, habitat designs to help them thrive, and garden practices to accommodate all their stages of life. Gardeners

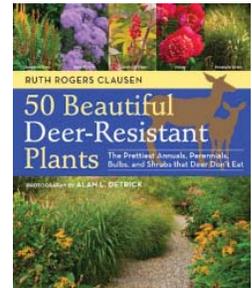
will learn why butterflies matter, why they are in danger, and what simple steps we can take to make a difference.

Great details are provided about specific genera and species, and includes almost as many big, gorgeous color photos as there are pages. Learn about the ways gardeners can provide a habitat where butterflies and other necessary and helpful insects can thrive. You'll learn how to design a butterfly-friendly garden with well defined design and implementation principles diagrammed with great specificity and how to choose the right plants while thinking about their lifecycle as a whole, with a complete list of butterfly garden plants—wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees—organized by region.

## Got Deer?

If deer are a perennial problem in your garden, you may want to get the book *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants* by Ruth Rogers Clausen. The premise of this book published in 2011 is that having a lush, thriving garden is as simple as choosing the right plants.

The author stresses that there is no such thing as a deer-proof plant. During times when deer are hungriest they will try to eat most anything. Plants that are considered “deer candy” and not recommended are hostas, lilies, daylilies, tulips and roses (except *Rosa rugosa* which deer leave alone). The book has a more complete list of these favorites to avoid, but lists in depth many more plants that DO work with deer.



This inspiring guide, illustrated throughout with full-page color photographs, rates plants based on the extent that a plant species will be nibbled on, then details how to successfully grow each individual species. In addition to the 50 best annuals, perennials, bulbs, herbs, ferns, ornamental grasses, and shrubs for all landscape areas, a detailed set of companion plants is provided for each, as well as cultural techniques smart design tips for pulling it all together.

## Some Useful Websites

**Wisconsin Public Gardens** — [www.wisconline.com/attractions/publicgardens.html](http://www.wisconline.com/attractions/publicgardens.html)

**Wisconsin Butterflies** — <https://wisconsinbutterflies.org/butterfly>, for identification and sightings of butterflies in the state

**Wisconsin Fruit** — [www.fruit.wisc.edu](http://www.fruit.wisc.edu), about fruit production in Wisconsin including disease and insect forecasting

**UW Vegetable Pathology** — [www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis](http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis), vegetable diseases, especially late blight, as well as good information about fungicides

# events

See the MG website for more events and details

## July 2016 .....

 **7**  
**Woodland Gathering**  
Mineral Point, WI  
15th Annual at Shake Rag Alley with many garden/nature craft sessions. Various costs. (608) 987-3292.

 **8-9**  
**Olbrich Home Garden Tour**  
Madison, WI  
By Olbrich BG, 10-4/9-3. \$14/ members \$12. (608) 246-4550.

 **8-9**  
**Garden Walk**  
Mosinee, WI  
By North Central MGA, with 5 private + 1 community garden. 1-7/9-3. \$10. Linda at (715) 573-4866.

 **9**  
**Garden Tour**  
Lake Geneva, WI  
By Walworth Co. MGA, 10-4, \$15. Chrissy at 262-741-4951

 **9**  
**Garden Walk**  
Muckwanago, WI  
By Vernon-ELCA. 4 gardens, incl. Heritage Flower Farm. 262-271-7076

 **9**  
**Secret Gardens Tour**  
Wauwatosa, WI  
By Wauwatosa Beaut. Committee. \$10/12. Mary (414) 899-3598.

 **9**  
**Garden Walk**  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI  
By Wood Co. MGA, 9:30-3:30, \$8/10. Barb at 715-325-2075.

 **12**  
**Natural Gardener**  
Spooner, WI  
By North Country MGA, focusing on veg gardens. Free, 6-7:30. email northcountrymgv@yahoo.com

 **14-16**  
**MGA Bus Trip**  
To Minneapolis-St. Paul  
By the Winnebago Co. MGA, visit many gardens, nurseries. \$315 by July 1. Marge, (920) 233-3467.

 **15-16**  
**Garden Parade**  
Stevens Point & Plover, WI  
By Portage Co. MGA. Visit private gardens + vendors. (715) 346-1316.

 **16**  
**Select Gardens Tour**  
Greenfield, WI  
5 gardens, 'Knock Out' rose garden. 10-4, \$10/\$15. (414) 545-3381.

 **19**  
**Gardening Vertically**  
Rotary BC, Janesville, WI  
With Mark Dwyer, 6:30-8. \$5 (\$3 members). (608) 754-1779.

 **19-21**  
**Farm Technology Days**  
Lake Geneva, WI  
The largest ag show in WI includes horticultural displays and MG booth. www.wifarmtechnologydays.com/

 **21**  
**Grandview Museum Tour**  
Hollandale, WI  
Sponsored and lead by Grant Co. MGVs, 6:30-8. Karen (608) 748-5432

 **24**  
**Library Garden Tour**  
New Lisbon, WI  
8 gardens, 10-3. \$10 Karla (608) 847-2506

## August 2016 .....

 **16**  
**Twilight Garden Tour**  
Spooner, WI  
See plantings and trials at Spooner ARS, 4-8:30pm. (715) 635-3735.

 **30**  
**Ornamental Grasses**  
Rotary BG, Janesville, WI  
With Mark Dwyer, 6:30-8. \$5. Call (608) 7524-1779.

## Planning Ahead .....

 **Sept 6-11, 2016**  
**Isle Royale Botany Workshop**  
Grand Portage, MN  
Open to anyone interested in plant ID, walking up to 8 miles/day. \$725 includes RT boat to island, camping, meals, fees. Janet 906-337-5529

 **Sept 14-17, 2016**  
**Regional MG Conf**  
Wisconsin Dells, WI  
Hosted by WIMGA instead of annual conf. <https://midwestmgconference.wordpress.com/>.

 **Oct 8-17, 2016**  
**Taste of Tuscany**  
Tour to Italy  
Tour focused on food and gardens. All details at <http://hiddentreasurestours.com/upcoming-tours/tuscany/>

 **Jan or Feb 2017 (TBA)**  
**MG Tour to Costa Rica**  
Learn about plants and nature in Central America. Website, Susan Mahr for brochure (coming soon).

 **July 10-14, 2017**  
**International MG Conf**  
Portland, OR  
All info at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>

 **March 8-19, 2017**  
**Scenery of New Zealand**  
New Zealand  
With Susan Mahr, includes many gardens and natural areas. All details at <http://hiddentreasurestours.com/upcoming-tours/new-zealand/>

**Don't see YOUR local program listed?**

All the events in the WIMGA newsletter are taken from the WI MG website, so if it isn't on there it won't make it into this newsletter. Most MG associations host public events, such as plant sales, garden walks, local or regional symposia, or gardening classes for the public. Many of you also belong to other organizations that host their own programs that would be of interest to MGVs.

If you know of a horticulture-related event that you would like publicized on the MG website and possibly in this newsletter, all you have to do is submit the information at:

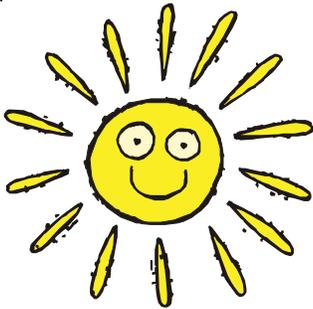
[wimastergardener.org/submit-an-event/](http://wimastergardener.org/submit-an-event/)



**Master Gardener Program**  
Department of Horticulture  
1575 Linden Dr.  
Madison, WI 53706

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**July 2016 Newsletter**

## contacts

### **Wisconsin Master Gardener Association President**

Verne Gilles  
63335 Ed Carlson Rd  
Ashland, WI 54806  
(715) 682-4408; vgilles@centurylink.net

### **Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Treasurer**

Byron Hacker  
N4511 Hwy. 57  
Chilton, WI 53014  
(920) 849-2654; plantdr47@gmail.com

### **UW-Extension Master Gardener Program Office**

Mike Maddox, Director  
(608) 265-4536; mike.maddox@ces.uwex.edu  
Dr. Susan Mahr, Coordinator  
(608) 265-4504; semahr@wisc.edu  
Department of Horticulture  
1575 Linden Dr.  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI 53706  
<http://wimastergardener.org/>

***The Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Newsletter*** is published 6 times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November) dedicated to providing horticulture education and information about the Master Gardener program to state association members. The newsletter is compiled and published in the Horticulture Department at the UW - Madison.

Articles, artwork and ideas are welcome, but final selection and editing are the responsibility of the editorial staff. Submissions and comments should be addressed to the WIMGA Newsletter Committee Chair (Lynn Caine, dljed@charter.net).

**Visit the WIMGA Website at**  
**<http://www.wimga.org/>**