

Portage County MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



March 2014



Greenhouse Project is focus of March 24 meeting 6 p.m. Monday, March 24 1220 Briggs Ct., Stevens Point

Our first tour of 2014 will be during the Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers March 24 meeting. Even if snow still covers the ground, we'll get an inside look at the Greenhouse Project in downtown Stevens Point.

Some of you may remember Sorenson's Greenhouse and the years after it was abandoned. When Patrick Rothfuss financed the purchase in 2011, new life was breathed into the old garden center. Central Rivers Farmshed is the community group spearheading revitalization of the property.

Layne Cozzolino, executive director of Farmshed, will give us a tour and tell us about the Greenhouse Project. Farmshed is focused on growing the local food economy.



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PCMGV Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2014

The February 24, 2014 meeting of the Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers was called to order by Vice-President, Rick Jansing, at 6:08 P.M. at the Portage County Annex Building.

Those present were: Margaret Bau, Sandy Boehm, Donald Caine, Lynn Caine, Virginia Carlton, Jean Danielson, Diane Dieterich, Eric Ecklund, Deanna Gertsch-Pozorski, Dan Goulet, Kathy Goulet, Rose Grych, Jen Haas, Kathy Herbert, Carole Jansing, Rick Jansing, Tina Lechner, Amy Lesniak, Lynn Ligman, Ellie Mendyke, Sandra Newby, Sandy O'Brien, Terri Offerman, Stephanie Olson, Sharon Omernick, Rose Marie Piekarski, Walt Rasmussen, Robert Rausch, Leanna Rusch, Chere Schmit, Don Schmit, Nick Schultz, Dianne Somers, Kathy Stanke, Lori Teuchert, Todd Teuchert, Kirby Throckmorton, Steve Treankler, Jill Trochleel-Ziehr, Jennifer Young, Gail Zalewski. Guests: Jane Kellerman, Richard Zimmerman

The **Minutes** from January were approved as distributed.

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Articles for the newsletter should be submitted by the **10th of the month** for publication that month.

Submit to: Gail Zalewski :
gailzale@mwwb.net or
715-570-3108

Please send any address changes to:
Bonnie Maier:
bonnie.maier@ces.uwex.edu or
715-346-1316

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Kathy Stanke.

Committee Reports:

Farm Technology Days: Planning continues. Please keep these dates open to volunteer at this event: August 12, 13, and 14, 2014.

Flower Beds: New Co-Chairpersons are needed.

Garden Parade: Committee will meet on Monday, March 10 at 9:00 A.M. at the Rettler Building. The gardens have been selected and "Art in Bloom" in cooperation with Gallery Q will again participate.

Newsletter: Chairpersons and contributors should get information, photos, and articles to Gail Zalewski by March 10 to be included in the PCMGV newsletter.

YMCA Gardens: A meeting will be held on March 6 at 6:30 P.M. at the YMCA. Help with the education component is needed at 9:30 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. This would include a half hour in the classroom and then about 40 minutes outside working in the gardens. The four and five year olds would begin in April, and five through 8 year olds in June. Contact Dan Goulet to volunteer.

WIMGA: Lynn Caine reported on discussions regarding the "Big Picture" of the MG Program, and the structure and function of the different components of the MGVs and UWEX educators. More information can be accessed through the MG blog (fyi.uwex.edu/wimastergardener). Members should check our current newsletter, the WIMGA Newsletter, and the Wisconsin Master Gardener website (<http://wimastergardener.org>) for more information about the "MG-machine" along with upcoming workshops and seminars.

Extension Report: Ken reported on the Mandatory Child Abuse Training that is now required for 2014 certification. There will be a session offered at our April PCMGV meeting or members may complete this individually on-line at <http://wcpwds.wisc.edu/mandatedreporter>. An information booklet about this was given out to those in attendance.

Awards were given out for volunteer hours contributed:

- **2013 hours** ---- Sandy Newby, 182.5; Dan Goulet, 180; and, Kathy Goulet, 139.5 hours
- **Cumulative hours** ----- Rose Marie Piekarski, 500 hours

Announcements:

Audit: Diane Somers will conduct the audit for 2013 with Gail Zalewski helping.

PCMGV website: This is still a work in progress. Input from members is welcomed and encouraged. There is public access to the website and a password-protected section for PCMGVs. Each certified member will soon receive information regarding their log-on with user name and password. Virginia Carlton will get this information out to members.

Golden Sands Home Builder's Association Home and Garden Show will be held March 28-30 in Stevens Point. If interested in volunteering for this, please contact Sandy Boehm.

The next meeting will be on **Monday, March 24, 2014 at 6:00** at the Annex building.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 6:35 P.M.

A program entitled "Right Plant, Right Place" by Bob Koca from KLM Services, LLC followed the meeting. A handout of information included in his presentation was given out. It also was decided to have Bob present a "hands-on" pruning workshop in the spring for those interested.

Continuing Education: Bob Koca, **Right Plant, Right Place** ---- 1.5 hours

Submitted by Chrismary Pacyna, PCMGV Secretary

PCMGV Board Members

Chairperson

Shelley Binder
shellb58@hotmail.com
715-341-9414

Vice Chairperson

Rick Jansing
rickjansing@att.net
715-344-2118

Secretary

Chrismary Pacyna
cmpacyna@charter.net
715-341-3343

Treasurer

Kathy Stanke
rkstanke@charter.net
715-570-7885

WIMGA Representative

Lynn Caine
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715-344-1564

Director of Volunteers/ Committees

Chere Schmit
dcschmit@hotmail.com
715-258-0153

At-Large Board Members

Open

UW Extension Ag Agent

Ken Schroeder
ken.schroeder@ces.uwex.edu
715-346-1316

Committee Chairs

* Chair ** Co-chair

Bylaws

Cindy Bredow *

Display

Barb Gifford *
Open**

Farm Tech Days

CindyBredow *

Flower Beds

Carole Jansing **
Open*

Funds/Grants

CindyBredow *

Garden Dreams

Charlotte Kolinski *
Sally Prideaux **

Garden Parade

Carole Jansing *
Open **

Habitat House

Jennifer Young *
Jen Haas **

Hunger Prevention/ Head Start

Open

Membership

John Kolinski *

Plant Sale

ChereSchmit *
KathyHerbert **

Programs

Tina Lechner *
Diane Somers **

YMCA Gardens

Dan Goulet *

Coordinators

Amherst Fair

Open

Arbor Day

Open

Chicago Bus Trip

Bob Rausch
Sally Prideaux

Farmers Market

Todd Teuchert
Lori Teuchert

Fundraisers

Open

Garden Line

Open

KMart Potting Day

Open

Newsletter

Gail Zalewski

Rosholt Fair

Todd Teuchert

Website

Lynn Caine

Pruning Workshop — April 12

Learn from a professional as Certified Arborist Bob Koca leads a pruning workshop for Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers on Saturday, April 12. We'll meet at 9 a.m. at the Lincoln Center, 1519 Water St.

Bob will go over basic pruning techniques and procedures. Master Gardeners can have hands-on experience under his guidance and availability for questions. The session will conclude by noon; participants are welcome to leave sooner as needed.

Lincoln Center has a variety of ornamental trees notably crabapples, low evergreens and an assortment of deciduous shrubs, all of which will provide opportunities to learn and practice.

Please bring pruning shears, and dress for the weather – and yard work.

Thanks to Master Gardeners who provided date preferences for this event. Because April 15 is generally the cut-off date for pruning oaks – to prevent the spread of oak wilt -- Bob recommended meeting before the end of the month.

Bob owns KLM Services, LLC, Bancroft. He has worked in the landscape design, installation and maintenance business for nearly 40 years. He provides professional pruning and consultation services, and teaches horticulture and landscape classes at Midstate Technical College.

Submitted by Nick Schultz, PCMGV



Nick introduced Bob at our February meeting, where he spoke on "Right Plant, Right Place"



Dan Goulet and his wife Kathy give updates on the YMCA Garden at the February PCMGV meeting.



Wood County MGV Spring Seminar - April 5

The Wood County MGVs have their Spring Seminar scheduled for April 5th from 8:30 am — noon at the Mid-State College Auditorium in Wisconsin Rapids. They have two great speakers lined up:

- Joel Karsten will be joining the seminar via Skype. He is the author of *Straw Bale Gardening*, a book that has garnered lots of recent interest. One of the Wood County MGV members who had a straw bale garden last summer will be working with him and a bale of hay to add a personal touch to the presentation.
- Don Engebretson, the Renegade Gardener from Minneapolis will be back by popular demand and will be sharing his advice on Home Landscape Design.

Cost is \$10. Pre-register by calling 715-421-8440 by March 28.

Wood County MGV's would love to have us join them!

YOUR WEBSITES:

NEW! PCMGV: check out the new Portage County Master Gardener Volunteer Website!

<http://portagecountymastergardeners.org>



Portage County UW-Extension: <http://portage.uwex.edu>

UW-Extension: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/>

UW-Extension Publications: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>

WI Master Gardener Blog :
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimastergardener/>

WI State Master Gardener: <http://wimastergardener.org>

Greenhouse Project

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The tour will begin at 6 p.m. Our Master Gardener business meeting will then be held in a conference room on site, followed by her talk.

The Greenhouse is at 1220 Briggs Court. Parking is available there, with overflow south of Center Point Drive in the ShopKo lot. If a few people bring chairs, that will help ensure we all can sit during the presentation.

The Greenhouse Project will eventually house an 11,000 square foot production greenhouse, community kitchen, gathering space and learning center.

Hundreds of volunteers have helped transform the property, and work continues. Many heating, electrical and structural improvements have already been made, thanks to efforts of individuals and business, educational and farm partners.

Layne is well-versed in both the innovations and limitations of the nation's efforts to re-engage and rebuild the food system. Interest in sustainable food systems brought her to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where she pursued a master's degree in nutritional science. She worked on a community-supported agricultural farm in Custer and prepared sustainably grown dishes at Emy J's in Stevens Point. She learned about the interconnected nature of a local food system and understood the successes and challenges farmers, business owners and community members face when implementing community food systems.

Submitted by Nick Schultz, PCMGV



Garden Parade — Co-Chair needed —
contact Carole Jansing at
carole.jansing@att.net
or call 715-344-2118

Flower Beds — Chair and Co-Chair needed —
contact Chere Schmit at
dcschmit@hotmail.com
or call 715-258-0153

3 – Permaculture and Water – [Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison](#) – Join Madison Area Permaculture Guild Founder Kate Heiber-Cobb from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Learn how to construct swales & berms, rain gardens, & other water catchment devices in your landscape. She will discuss why you want to hold water where it falls, how this practice relates to healthy soil, how it refills our aquifers, etc. Bring drawing/sketch paper, pencil & eraser to start on a plan for your landscape with help from Kate. \$15 (\$12 member).

5 – Get Ready...Get Set...Garden! – Baraboo – Day long seminar offered by the Sauk Co. MGA. For info contact [Lynn Zick](#), Sauk Co. UW Ext Administrative Support Specialist, at (608) 355-3250.

5 – Integrating Native Prairies in the Urban Landscape – Green Bay – Horticulture class offered by the NEW MGA and Brown Co. UWEX with guest speaker Neil Diboll, Senior Ecologist & President of Prairie Nursery, Inc, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At the Ag & Ext Service Center, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay. \$15, pre-registration required. Contact the Brown Co. UW-Ext at (920) 391-4653.

5 – Vegetable Garden Design Workshop: Create a Garden That Feeds Your Body + Soul – [Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison](#) – Do you have lots of exciting ideas but aren't sure how to turn them into a vegetable garden? Join Megan Cain, The Creative Vegetable Gardener, in this hands-on workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. where we will break out graph paper, pencils, and inspirational photographs to design a beautiful vegetable garden that produces a lot of food with less work. The second part of the workshop will focus on step-by-step installation of the garden so you go home prepared to dig in. Some pre-class work required. Bring a bag lunch. \$97.

5 – Spring Seminar – WI Rapids – Sponsored by Wood Co MGVs from 8:00 a.m. to noon at MSTC Auditorium, 500 32nd St. N. & featuring The Renegade Gardener, Don Engebretson. He will present 'Design Secrets to a Beautiful Yard and Garden.' Joining us via Skype will be Joel Karsten, author of Straw Bale Gardening. \$10, includes materials & refreshments. Call the Wood Co Ext office at (715) 421-8440 to pre-register.

12 or 19– Pruning Trees & Shrubs – Green Bay -- Dan Mitchell, MGv, and Vijai Pandian, Hort. Educator, will demo the basics of pruning fruit trees, shrubs, and shade trees from 10:00 a.m. to noon. At the Ag & Ext Service Center, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay. \$5, pre-registration required. For info contact the Brown Co. UW-Ext at (920) 391-4653.

12 -- Beekeeping for Beginners – Madison – Learn every- thing you need to know for your first year keeping these pollinators. At the Dane Co. Ext Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr., from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$50, includes handouts. For info or to register contact Jeanne Hansen at (608) 244-5094.

Underlined events qualify for continuing educational hours.

19 – From the Ground Up: Herb Gardening 101 – [Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison](#) – From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., we'll take a close look at the top 12 culinary herbs and discuss how to grow and care for them, when to harvest them, and how to use what you grow. Lauri Lee of Herb 'n Gardener, and former president of the Madison Herb Society, will provide you with handouts, charts, and other info to get your herb garden growing and useful in its first season. \$35 (\$28 member).

26 – Second Step Beekeeping Class – Madison – For those who have kept bees one year. Includes time for personal questions. At the Dane Co. Ext Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$50, includes handouts. For info or to register contact Jeanne Hansen at (608) 244-5094.

26 – Herb Gardening: Beyond the Basics – [Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison](#) – In this class from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., Lauri Lee of Herb 'n Gardener, and former president of the Madison Herb Society, will help you move beyond the basics and usual cast to cover lesser known culinary and tea herbs. Learn the best varieties to choose, how to keep them under control, when and how to harvest, and how to store herbs for year-round enjoyment. You will receive handouts and handy charts to help enjoy what you grow. \$40 (\$32 member).

30 – Growing Blueberries in Containers – Green Bay – Our soil in Northeast WI generally is too basic to successfully grow blueberries. Contained blueberries offer the chance to keep the medium blueberries are in at a level they can thrive. Vijai Pandian, Hort Educator, will help guide us to tasty results in this class from from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. At the Ag & Ext Service Center, 1150 Bellevue St. \$5, pre-registration required. For info call the Brown Co. UW-Ext at (920) 391-4653.

BOERNER BOTANICAL GARDENS: For more information or to register contact [Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens](#), 9400 Boerner Dr., Hales Corners, WI at 414-525-5659.

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDENS: 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe IL 60022. Phone: (847) 835-5440.

GARDENS OF THE FOX CITIES: Register for classes on the [Event Calendar](#). For info contact [Gardens of the Fox Cities](#), 1313 E. Witzke Blvd. Appleton, WI 54911 at (920) 993-1900, Fax (920) 993-9492.

GREEN BAY BOTANICAL GARDEN: For information or to register contact Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Road, Green Bay, WI 54303 at (920) 490-9457.

MN LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM: For info contact the [Education Department](#), Minnesota Arboretum, P.O. Box 39, Chanhassen, MN 5531-0039 at (952) 443-1422.

NORTHWIND PERENNIAL FARM: For info contact Northwind Perennial Farm, 7047 Hospital Rd, Burlington, WI 53105 at (262) 248-8229, see the website at [Northwind Perennial Farm](#) or email [in-fo@northwindretail@wi.rr.com](mailto:info@northwindretail@wi.rr.com)

OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS: For info contact [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#), 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550. Pre-registration required, including online registration from the OBG website.

Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin—Extension
Portage County UW-Extension
1462 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point WI 54481-2947
Phone: 715-346-1316
Fax: 715-346-1323

Return Service Requested



April Garden Guide

- ◆ Start tomato seeds indoors. Research shows seven week old transplants produce earliest fruit and best overall results.
- ◆ Cut back over-wintered geraniums to six to eight inches.
- ◆ Start fast-growing annual flowers indoors.
- ◆ Start seedlings of eggplant, okra, peppers and broccoli.
- ◆ Set out lily of the valley clumps with pips just even with the ground.
- ◆ When annual beds can be worked, turn over green manure crop such as annual rye in beds for annuals and vegetables. If none was planted, top-dress with compost or rotted manure.
- ◆ Remove mulch from spring flowering bulb beds.
- ◆ Container grown or balled and bur lapped trees and shrubs can be planted at any time during the growing season.
- ◆ Divide perennials and pot for the PCMGV plant sale by the end of the month. This will provide roots time to get established.
- ◆ Prune and fertilize all bush fruits and grapes. Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after ground thaws but before blossoming.
- ◆ Plant rhubarb and asparagus as soon as ground can be worked.
- ◆ Remove rose cones when soil thaws. Gradually remove soil mound from around rose plants.

