



Submitted by Margaret Parsons

PCMGV February 2016

February 2016



Welcome Nate Bremer and Solaris Farms

Nate Bremer is a Wisconsin hybridizer, plantsman, teacher and lecturer specializing in northern hardy Paeonia (peony) and Hemerocallis (daylily) and Liliium (true lilies).

With more than 150 daylily and 23 peony registrations, Bremer is the proprietor of Solaris Farms, a family-run perennial nursery and hybridizing operation. A passionate gardener with a fascination for plant genetics, he has a special interest in hybridizing and promoting perennials with proven performance for the growing conditions of the upper Midwest.

Bremer moved from Neenah, Wisconsin to Reedsville with his family in 1998 to found Solaris Farms, a century-old dairy farm now home to acres of display gardens, cultivation plots and sales fields. Open to the public during summer season, Solaris Farms is an official American Hemerocallis Society Display Garden. The business, which offers more than 1000 varieties of daylilies and 500 varieties of peonies, ships plants through the spring summer and fall months and operates an on-site field sales operation in summer.

The Solaris Display Garden showcases a wide variety of plants set amid winding stone paths,

with pergolas, old farm artifacts and garden art. Solaris will host the American Peony Society Convention garden tour in 2016.

Bremer has gardened since he was a boy. He collected wild orchids in Mexico and hybridized and raised orchids in his father's greenhouse, mentored by family friend and Wisconsin orchid judge Pete Peterson.



His father, Hale, also an avid gardener, introduced him to the daylily in the 80s. Hale is the inspiration for many daylily names from "Hale Bremer" to "What the Hale". Nate's plant registrations can be found in the American Hemerocallis Society, American Peony Society and the American Orchid Society's databases.

(see pages 2-3 for more information on Solaris Farms)

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2016 Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers' Meeting Dates

Board of Directors:

(Portage County Annex Small Conference room)

Mar. 14	Aug. 8
Apr. 11	Sept. 12
No May mtg.	Oct. 10
June 13	Nov, 14
Jul. 11	

General Membership:

(Portage County Annex Conference Rooms 1 & 2)

	July 25 (outdoors)
Feb. 22	Aug. 22 (outdoors)
Mar. 28	Sept 26
Apr. 25	Oct. 24 (outdoors)
May 9	Nov. 28
June 27(outdoors)	

Choosing Seeds for Abundant Crops and Gardening Success

Many of us will be buying seeds this spring or ordering from the catalogs we obtained at Garden Dreams. One of the advantages of growing plants from seed is that there are many more varieties to choose from and many of these varieties have disease resistance. For the YMCA garden we always purchase powdery mildew resistant squash and pumpkins. This is a problem every year and we do not use any pesticides on these gardens so resistance is our only option. These two websites from Cornell University list some resistant varieties:

<http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/Tables/WntrSqTable.html>

<http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/Tables/PumpkinTable.html>

Another problem in our area is late blight on tomatoes. The following website lists some resistant varieties including a few heirlooms which naturally show some tolerance.

http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Tomato_performance_LateBlight_2011.pdf

Growing resistant varieties can improve the performance of your garden this summer. Even if the vegetables are not as outstanding as you are used to, taking a break from your usual varieties can often break the disease cycle that has built up in your garden. Resistant varieties combined with proper watering practices, good air flow, garden

sanitation and healthy soil will ensure an abundant crop this summer.

If you have other ideas on variety selection please let me know. I am always looking for great plants and enjoy sharing the information with everyone. Master Gardeners educate, share and make Portage County a beautiful place.

Lynn Caine



Mountain Merit



Aladdin

More on Solaris Farms

Solaris Farms is a family-owned nursery and American Hemerocallis Society Display Garden. It offers Hemerocallis (daylilies), Paeonia (peonies) and Liliium (true lilies).

Visitors are welcome to look through seedling fields, hybridizing areas and display gardens to get an idea of things to come. Plants are trialed, propagated and grown right here in Wisconsin; insuring high quality hardy stock. Many of the Daylily and Peonies we sell are exclusives and are cutting edge modern day hybrids. Much work and time is devoted to the development of new varieties to offer the gardening public. Our aim is to provide superior northern hardy plants that will prosper and become long term fixtures

The farm is open to walk-in traffic after the 4th of July holiday through August 15th, from 10 am to 4 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. Daylily and Liliium peak bloom is at its peak during this period of time and the farm is staffed to dig plants and send them home with visitors.

This is an excellent period of time to both select and transplant daylilies and lilies due to the place in their seasonal growth cycles.

Peonies can be viewed on weekends in May. Dates and times will be posted on the Solaris Farms website as the bloom period approaches. Peonies are dug in the fall of the year and shipped to customers world-wide, and locally. Orders are taken throughout the previous winter and spring months. Many of our peony offerings sell out nearly 6 months before they are dug for shipping to their destination gardens.

Because these plants are in such high demand it is recommended to order well in advance as new orders are not taken after mid-July.

The Solaris Farms website is an excellent place to learn more about the three groups of plants we sell. The website features catalogs, culture pages, and wide variety of informational topics.

We hope you visit our online presence or come to the farm during peak summer bloom!



To learn more, visit the farms or check out the Solaris Farms website or contact Nate Bremer :

7510 Pinesva Road
Reedsville, WI 54230

Website: www.solarisfarms.com
Email: info@solarisfarms



The Little Shrub with Big Flowers (Tree Peonies)



Presented by Nate Bremer

Tree Peonies, more accurately 'shrub peonies' are among the finest flowering plants available to gardeners today and may easily be grown in most of Wisconsin. The plants possess flowers that appear to be from 'another world' and the colors range from white to lavender, red to yellow and every other color except true blue. The plants have often received bad press (difficult to grow), but only require minimal care. A Power Point slide show/discussion will bring this plant into the gardener's dreams and plans. Nate will dispel some myths about growing these tremendously worthy plants and look at the wide range of varieties and forms available to the gardener today. Getting to know this plant intimately will allow anyone to grow this plant successfully. If I were limited to one plant in my garden, it would be a tree peony. Each season brings a change in the plant that can be beautiful, but intensely interesting.

Volunteer Opportunities with Area Flower Beds

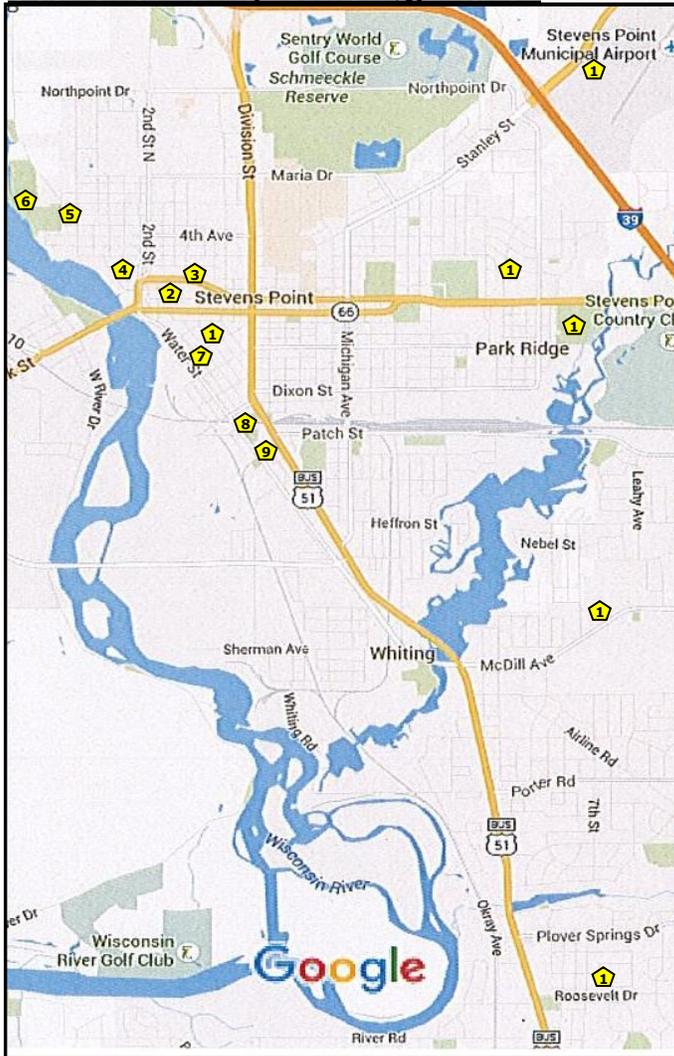
Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers are responsible for seventeen flower beds throughout the county, as well as providing education and consultation for Rising Star Mill volunteers. There are many opportunities for Master Gardeners to help with the flower beds (and get community service hours while doing so). Activities include cleaning up perennial beds in the spring (for those of us who didn't get to it last fall), planting in the beds, fertilizing, weeding, applying compost and mulch, and ongoing dead-heading and weed control. You can be part of a work day this spring or do as much or as little as your schedule allows at your own pace. Please contact the volunteer(s) listed for any area that you would like to help with. If you're not already on the committee or listed with one of the flower beds and would like to be, please let Margaret Parsons or Debbie Kunst know and they'll be happy to add you. The flower beds are a great chance to publicize PCMGV and always receive positive comments from the community.

Margaret Parsons

(See table for contact information and map on page 4 for locations.)

<u>Flower Bed</u>	<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Airport	Nancy Sander	sanderfam@gmail.com
Amherst Gardens	Bob Rausch	bob@amherstinn.com
Bukolt Park Entrance**	Leanna Rusch	llrusch@gmail.com
Bukolt Park Lagoon**	Terri Offerman	tmofferman@gmail.com
Bus Depot*	Debbie Kunst	Debbie.kunst@exede.net
Hein Park**	Shelley Binder Rita Kozlowski	shellb58@hotmail.com kozl@charter.net
HH Flower Bed- Welcome to Whiting	Deanna Gertsh- Pozorski	dpozorski722@charter.net
Humane Society	Carole Olsen	Cjolson@charter.net
Iverson Park**	Kirby Throckmorton	kirthr@charter.net 715-347-7351
Lincoln Center*	Margaret Parsons	mparsons@tds.net
Plover Library	Jill Ziehr, Jan Pierson, Deb Kearns	ziehr@charter.net bpiersonj@sbcglobal.net debvde@gmail.com
Portage County Health Care Center*	Dorothy Steuerwald Sylvia Masters	mhsteuer@yahoo.com sylvia.d.masters@gmail.com
Portage County Courthouse*	Michelle Daniels	mandmdaniels@charter.net
Portage County Library *	Jean Danielson, San- dra Newby	pjdan@charter.net
Rising Star Mill	Jen Haas	rayandjenhaas@yahoo.com
Rosholt Library	Todd and Lori Teuchert	teuchert01@wi-net.com
United Way Sharing Circle-Shopko North	Gail Zalewski	gailzale@mwwb.net 715-570-3108
Veteran's Memorial	Patricia Soik	patti.soik@gmail.com

Stevens Point, Whiting, North



- | # | Location |
|----|---|
| 1 | Portage County Courthouse
1516 Church Street, Stevens Point |
| 2 | Portage County Library
1001 Main Street, Stevens Point |
| 3 | United Way Sharing Circle-Shopko North
1100 Centerpoint Drive, Stevens Point |
| 4 | Former Bus Depot
1101 1st Street, Stevens Point |
| 5 | Bukolt Park Entrance
100 Bukolt Avenue, Stevens Point |
| 6 | Bukolt Park Lagoon
100 Bukolt Avenue, Stevens Point |
| 7 | Lincoln Center
1519 Water Street, Stevens Point |
| 8 | Veteran's Memorial Veteran's Memorial Park
Monroe & Church Streets, Stevens Point |
| 9 | Portage County Health Care Center
825 Whiting Avenue, Stevens Point |
| 10 | HH Flower Bed-Welcome to Whiting
Post Road and HH Water Street, Stevens Point |
| 11 | Hein Park
1101 Sunset Boulevard, Stevens Point |
| 12 | Iverson Park
4201 Highway 66, Stevens Point |
| 13 | Stevens Point WI Municipal Airport
4501 Highway 66, Stevens Point WI |
| 14 | Plover Library
2151 Roosevelt Drive, Plover |
| 15 | Humane Society of Portage County
3200 Iber Lane, Plover |
| 16 | Amherst Garden
Wilson & Train Crossing, Amherst |
| 17 | Rising Star Mill
3190 County Road Q, Nelsonville |
| 18 | Rosholt Library
137 N. Main Street, Rosholt WI |

South



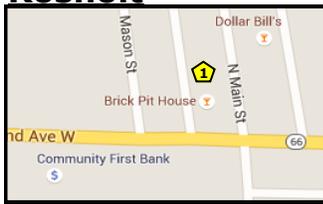
Amherst



Nelsonville



Rosholt



PCMGV Board Members

Co-Chairpersons

Lynn Caine
dijed@charter.net
715-344-1564

Margaret Parsons
mparsons@tds.net
715-457-2470

Out Going Chair

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

Secretary

Chrismary Pacyna
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715-341-3343

Treasurer

Lori Teuchert
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715-544-4158

Todd Teuchert
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UW Extension Ag Agent

Ken Schroeder
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715-346-1316

WIMGA Representative

Lynn Caine
dijed@charter.net
715-344-1564

2016 Presenter Schedule

February	Solaris Farms
March	PJ Leisch, bugs for 2016
April	Pollinators & bees, Christelle Guedot
May	Plant Sale Prep, Bob Koca, Asparagus
June	Diane Somers Garden
July	Nick Schultz Garden
August	Margaret Bau Garden
September	Plant Exchange, Show and Tell
October	Boston School Forest (Field Trip)
November	Christmas Party, Scholarship Recipients



Committee Co-Chairpersons

Bylaws

Cindy Bredow
Open

Chicago Bus Trip

Bob Rausch
Sally Prideaux

Display

Rita Kozlowski
Open

Educational Programs

Lynn Caine
Dianne Somers

Farmers Market

Lori Teuchert
Sandy O'Brien

Flower Beds

Margaret Parsons
Deb Kunst

Golden Sands Home Show

Sharon Omernick
Lynn Ligman

Membership

Chrismary Pacyna
Sandy O'Brien

Newsletter

Alicia Razvi
Open

Plant Sale

Chere Schmit
Walt Rasmussen

Publicity (Facebook)

Shelley Binder
Jen Young

Rosholt Fair

Todd Teuchert
Lori Teuchert

Garden Dreams

Charlotte Kolinski
Sally Prideaux

YMCA Giving Gardens

Lynn Caine
Open

Garden Parade

Carole Jansing
Katie Rettler

Funds/Grants

Cindy Bredow
Open

WANTED

Articles and Photos you would like to share in the MGV monthly newsletter! Please send items to **Alicia Razvi** (aliciarazvi@gmail.com) by the 10th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. I would love to include seasonal pictures and area specific tips!

Submission deadline:
March 10, 2016

Please send any address or e-mail changes to: Denise Rocha:

denise.rocha@ces.uwex.edu
or 715-346-1316

Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2016

The January 25, 2016 meeting of the Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers was called to order by Lynn Caine at 6:00 P.M. at the Portage County Annex.

Those present were: Don Caine, Lynn Caine, Ginny Carlton, Dan Goulet, Kathleen Goulet, Jen Haas, Angie Hauer, Tracy Hilger, Carole Jansing, Jane Kellerman, Kathleen Kruthoff, Debbie Kunst, Lynn Ligman, Marily Malcolm, Sylvia Masters, Pat Mrozinski, Sandra Newby, Sandy O'Brien, Terri Offerman, Sharon Omernick, Chrismary Pacyna, Margaret Parsons, Rose Marie Piekarski, Sally Prideaux, Walt Rasmussen, Alicia Razvi, Katie Rettler, Rebecca Roberts, Chere Schmit, Don Schmit, Nick Schultz, Patti Soik, Lori Teuchert, Todd Teuchert, Judy Yenter, Jennifer Young

The Minutes from November were approved.

The Treasurer's report was given by Lori Teuchert.

Old Business:

Officers for 2016: The following were elected:

Co-Chairpersons: Lynn Caine and Margaret Parsons

Secretary: Chrismary Pacyna

Treasurer: Lori Teuchert

Committee on Committees: Chere Schmit

Committee Chairpersons: Chairpersons are still needed for the Display and Publicity committees. In 2017 committee Chairpersons will be needed for Garden Dreams and the Garden Parade. Contact Lynn Caine if willing to serve on any of these committees.

By-Laws: Cindy Bredow and this committee will work on updating these during February. Changes will then be brought to a general meeting for discussion and approval.

Educational Programs: Lynn Caine reviewed the programs set for 2016. Ideas for speakers and programs are always welcome.

Flower Beds: Margaret Parsons requested help with these. A map showing the names and locations of the gardens we

develop and maintain will be included in the February newsletter. Helping to weed and maintain these beds may be done whenever needed and "at your convenience".

Garden Dreams: Sally Prideaux reported that 147 people attended. Many positive comments were received. A THANK YOU was given to all those who worked on the committee or at the event. Continuing Education time was 3 hours for the morning sessions and 2 hours for the afternoon session.

Garden Parade: Katie Rettler asked members to help "find" gardens that might be included in the 2016 parade. The committee has begun work on this event. Contact Katie Rettler or Carole Jansing if interested in helping with this event. The 2016 quilt is completed, and was on display at Garden Dreams. It will be available to view at other events. Raffle tickets will be available in February and members are encouraged to buy/sell these tickets.

Golden Sands Home Show: This will be held on February 19-21 at Sentry World. A volunteer sheet will be circulated for those interested in working at this event. Contact Lynn Ligman and Sharon Omernick for more information.

Membership: A 2016 PCMGV membership list was sent via e-mail to all members. Contact Chrismary Pacyna IF you did not receive this.

Newsletter: Thanks were extended to Alicia Razvi for taking over this responsibility. She asked for ideas for articles to include, photos of gardens/plants, and garden tips to share with each other. All articles and material are due to Alicia Razvi by the 10th of the month. Contact Alicia if you are willing to help with this.

Plant Sale: Chere Schmit reported that this is set for Saturday, May 14.

Publicity: Chairpersons are needed for this committee to work with Denise Rocha in the Extension office publicizing

the many things that PCMGVs do in our community.

Website and Face Book: Shelley Binder and Jennifer Young are responsible for these. Submit photos and "news" to them for posting on these sites.

YMCA Gardens: Lynn Caine reported that they are joining the Giving Gardens Program here in Portage County. Help with the preschool participants is needed.

New Business:

The **next meeting will be on February 22, 2016 at 6:00 at the Portage County Annex.** Solaris Farms will provide the evening's program with information about new plants, especially tree peonies.

The UW-Extension Master Gardeners' **Annual Report** was available for all members to take and read. It is a summary of what we did this past year.

2015 in Review: Lynn Caine shared a power point presentation she developed highlighting the activities and events that the PCMGVs were involved with last year.

PCMGV membership files are being updated. Denise Rocha from the UW-Extension office will contact individuals who may be missing one or more of the MG Program required components.

Dan Goulet had **catalogues available** for members to take. Walt Rasmussen has pots available to use for "potting-up" plants for the May plant sale.

WIMGA Report: Lynn Caine reported that Level 2 training is being offered on-line this spring (Landscaping). *Check the website and the Volunteer Vibe for more information on upcoming continuing education opportunities.*

Awards: Chrismary Pacyna, Sandi O'Brien, and Sylvia Masters passed out the PCMGV awards for hours of service. (See separate article in February newsletter).

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers

2015 Awards and Recognition

A special WELCOME and CONGRATULATIONS to the following who have completed the Master Gardener training and the required volunteer hours in 2015. They are now certified Wisconsin Master Gardeners: Michelle Daniels, Debbie Kunst, Sylvia Masters, Alicia Razvi, Dorothy Steuerwald, Jeanette Wilson and Judy Yenter.

The Membership Committee (Chrismary Pacyna, Sandy O'Brien, and Sylvia Masters) gave out the 2015 certificates for:

VOLUNTEER HOURS (youth, community education, service):

253.5 Chere Schmit

233.5 Lynn Caine

192.5 Gail Zalewski

145 Chrismary Pacyna

132.5 Sally Prideaux

114.5 Jan Pierson

98 Dan Goulet

89 Shelley Binder

79 Lori Teuchert

78 Cindy Bredow



Submitted by Margaret Parsons

CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

37 Lynn Caine

35.5 Rose Grych

34 Cindy Bredow

32 Chrismary Pacyna

28 Rose Marie Piekarski

CUMULATIVE VOLUNTEER HOURS:

750 Rebecca Roberts

500 Lynn Caine, Jan Pierson

250 Rita Kozlowski, Marily Malcolm, Walt Rasmussen

150 Jen Haas, Sharon Omernick, Margaret Parsons, Don Schmit

Special certificates were also presented for YEARS OF SERVICE:

25 years Char Kolinski, Leanna Rusch

20 years Cindy Bredow, Danise Otte, Katie Rettler

15 years Jean Danielson, Angie Hauer

Two books about gardening will be purchased for the Portage County Public Library in honor of the 25 years of service given as a Portage County Master Gardener Volunteer by Char Kolinski and Leanna Rusch.

GREAT WORK to everyone who contributed Volunteer Hours in 2015! It is amazing how quickly they all add up! We definitely do make a positive impact here in Portage County.

Submitted by: Chrismary Pacyna, Membership Chairperson



Native Plant Sale at the Arboretum

Join the hundreds of gardeners who order unique plant gardens and native shrubs and trees from the Friends of the UW-Madison Arboretum every year.

The plant gardens and woody species are available only through ordering now through Mar 25, 2016.

You may order 18 species of native shrubs and trees; four plant mixes for prairie, savanna and rain gardens, a no-mow lawn, or half- or full- flats of single species.

All plants are native to the area, and once established, require minimal care.

No plants are dug from the wild. Species are suited for a variety of growing conditions— Sunny or shady, wet or dry, sandy or heavy soils.

For ordering information, check out the link below:

https://arboretum.wisc.edu/content/uploads/2016/01/NPS_order-form_2016.pdf

February and March Calendar of Events



Feb 23, 2016, How Do I Prune My Grapevine?, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Still unsure how to tackle that rampant grapevine overtaking your fence? Are you thinking of planting some new grapevine but are unsure of how to get started? Join Olbrich Horticulturist Tony Gomez-Phillips from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. as he discusses the basic principles of grapevine pruning and management. He will also share information about grape growing trends in Wisconsin's budding wine industry. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

Feb 23 – March 8, 2016, Landscape Design for Homeowners Workshop, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Do you have some great ideas for your yard but not sure how to put them all together? Do you have absolutely no idea of what to do with your landscaping? Both scenarios will be addressed in this 3-session landscape design workshop. Paul Ganshert, registered landscape architect, will go through the design process to help you with your own property. He will cover design principals, site analysis, material selection, and installation processes. Come with your challenges and dreams, and leave with plans, ideas, and confidence to transform your home landscape for your enjoyment and pride. Some homework required with each session, such as measuring, taking photographs, and recording your site conditions. \$175 (\$140 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

Feb 25, 2016, New Plants for the Garden, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville, WI

With so many new plants out on the market each year, it's tough to sift through these introductions and decide what might work in our gardens. The diversity of selections, while enticing, includes plants that are not all created equal. We will explore many of the newest trees, shrubs, perennial and annuals that have proven to be worth their expense and the "real estate" that you'll be dedicating to them in this class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$5 (\$3 members).

Feb 25, 2016, Plants, Emotions, and Your Nose, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Do you long for the smell of tomato plants or lilacs during the winter months? Have you ever wondered why there is such a strong connection between your nose and plants? Join Amy Freidig, MG Program Assistant and a recent UW-Madison graduate with a master's degree in plant sciences, and learn why all those great garden scents are tied so closely to vivid memories. She will discuss some fascinating science behind scent in the garden and share some tips for gardening with scent in mind. Sample bottled plant aromas available to experiment with during the class from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

Feb 27, 2015, A Day in the Garden, Fond du Lac, WI

Sponsored by the Fond du Lac County MGA at UW Fond du Lac. Speakers include Jeff Epping, Rob Zimmer and a panel of MGVs. \$35 before Jan. 29 (\$40 after). For more information contact: Patty Percy at (920) 929-3172.

Feb 27, 2016, Green Up Your Winter Blues, Port Washington, WI

The Port Washington Garden Club presents its annual gardening seminar at the historic Ozaukee County Courthouse, 121 West Main St, Port Washington, WI. Both presentation and hands-on workshops will be offered. For more information see www.portgardenclub.org.

Feb 29, 2016, Early Season Vegetable Gardening, Green Bay Botanical Garden, Green Bay, WI

Early spring is a great time to begin planning and planting your favorite cool season crops. This class will explore the plethora of cool season plants that you can both start growing and harvest during the early spring weeks. Join MGV Lynn Clark from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for an evening of edible exploration. \$18 (\$9 member). For more information, contact the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Road, P.O. Box 12644, Green Bay, WI 54307-2644 at (920) 491-3691

March 2, 2016, New and Exciting Plants for Your Landscape, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Find out what plants are new for 2016 along with a few trusty favorites that will make your garden pop. Mark Dwyer, director of horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens, will introduce exciting new and noteworthy annual, perennial, and woody plants for 2016 in this class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. These outstanding plants have unique characteristics, improved performance, and are sure to revitalize your garden. He will also share some of his personal favorite plants to spice up your garden spaces and transform them into bright and exciting retreats. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

February and March Calendar of Events (Continued)

March 3, 2016, Foolproof Perennials, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Achieving success in your perennial garden is, to a large extent, dependent upon selecting the right plants. The first step in this process is to evaluate the planting site's soil and light conditions. Join Monches Farm Horticulturist Zannah Crowe from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to hear about her personal list of foolproof favorite perennials. She will discuss each plant's qualifications, including reliability, hardiness, seasonal interest characteristics, length or beauty of bloom, and good garden behavior. \$22 (\$18 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 5, 2016, Beautiful and Easy Landscapes, Green Bay, WI

With guest speaker Benjamin Futa, Director of the Allen Centennial Garden, UW-Madison. Sponsored by the NEW MGA and Brown Co. UW-Extension, from 10:00 am. to 12:30 p.m. at the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI. \$15. Pre-register by sending your contact information and payment to: Hort Dept., Brown County UW-Extension, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI 54302. For more information contact the Brown County UW-Extension Horticulture Department at (920) 391-4653 or kathy.dechamps@ces.uwex.edu.

March 5, 2016, Spring Into Gardening Conference, La Crosse, WI

Offered by the Bluff Country MGA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with keynote speaker Ed Lyon and breakout session. At the Lunda Center on the WTC campus in La Crosse. For more information or to register, go to www.bluffcountrymastergardeners.org

March 5, 2016, Spring Symposium, Milwaukee, WI

Hosted by the Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America at Woman's Club of Wisconsin, 813 E Kilbourn Ave, Milwaukee. \$65. Symposium schedule and registration form available after January 4, 2016 at www.herb-society-wisconsin.org or by calling Joan at (262) 377-1461.

March 9, 2016, Plan Your Garden So You Can Eat Locally All Year, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Ready to start relying on the grocery store less and your vegetable garden more for organic produce year-round? Join Megan Cain, The Creative Vegetable Gardener, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to learn how you can eat food from your garden during all 12 months in Wisconsin, with just a little planning. She will discuss how to strategically plan your garden with easy to grow and store crops, how to elevate your garden production with simple maps and records, when to plant crops so you are harvesting from your garden for your holiday dinner, and how to grow more food with less work. She will focus on simple and quick techniques – no fancy equipment or greenhouses needed. \$48 (\$39 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 10, 2016, Garbage Into Gold, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Susan Obry, certified MGV and master composter, will teach about both basic and advanced composting techniques, uses, and tools that will help turn your yard trimmings and household waste into soil amendment "gold." She will provide various tips and techniques that will help make your composting efforts efficient and effective. She will also explain how to do this over the winter, how to deal with common problems, and what to do with your "gold" once it's finished. Bring your questions and get advice from this expert in this class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 12, 2016, "Tasteful" Gardening for Style & Fun, Monroe, WI

8th annual symposium by the Green County MGA. For more information contact the Green County UW-Extension office at (608) 328-9440.

March 12, 2016, Spring into Gardening, Paddock Lake, WI

Offered by the Racine-Kenosha MGA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. featuring local experts speaking on garden topics. Attendees select 4 sessions of their choice. At Westosha Central High School, Paddock Lake, WI. \$40, includes box lunch (after Feb. 26, \$45). For more information contact the Kenosha County UWEX office at (262) 857-1945, or see the website at <http://kenosha.uwex.edu/horticulture/>.



February and March Calendar of Events (Continued)

March 15, 2016, Native Shrubs: A Symbiosis of Site, Structure, and Sanctuary, Olbrich Madison, WI

Explore the exciting possibilities of native shrubs in your landscape with John J. Gishnock III, landscape architect and owner of Formecology, LLC in this class from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. He will share informative and easy-to-follow tips about native shrub selection, placement, and maintenance. Expect to discover the environmental and economic benefits of native shrubs and how these beautiful, low-maintenance plants can be used in your landscape for both aesthetic appeal and functional purposes. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 19, 2016, Get Ready...Get Set...Garden!, Baraboo, WI

Offered by the Sauk Co. MGA from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., this seminar will offer a variety of topics in three breakout sessions. At the West Square Building, 505 Broadway, Baraboo, WI. Various costs depending on workshops selected. For more information contact Phyllis Both, Sauk Co. UW-Extension Office, at (608) 355-3250 or see the Sauk Co. website posting.

March 19, 2016, Plantaholics Retreat, Janesville, WI

Rotary Garden's Spring Symposium will focus on new plant selections, arrangements and designs for containers, borders and beds. With speakers Andrew Bunting, Chicago Botanic Garden' Christina Salwitz, Personal Garden Coach and Horticulturist; and Mark Dwyer, Rotary Botanical Gardeners. \$75, includes lunch (\$65 for active MGVs and members). For more information contact Mark at (608) 754-1779 or see the RBG Spring Garden Symposium webpage.

March 19, 2016, Proficient Pruning Workshop, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Pruning is essential to the optimal health of trees and shrubs, but it is feared even by experienced gardeners. Join Olbrich's Director of Horticulture Jeff Epping from 9:00 a.m. to noon as he dispels the fear by teaching when, where, and what to cut. He will discuss pruning techniques, and then demonstrate on live trees and shrubs in the outdoor gardens. \$45 (\$36 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 19-20, 2016, Garden Getaway: Garden Art & the Art of Gardening, Mineral Point, WI

Shake Rag Alley's annual Garden Getaway weekend chock full of hands-on workshops making art for the garden and art inspired by nature. Hypertufa Planter, Painted Garden Canvas, Wire Bird Mobile, Kimchi, Garden Trellis, Mosaic Trowel, Zentangle Inspired Botanical Notecards, Concrete Stump Planter, Nature Printing, Flower Pounding, Hypertufa Lantern, Herbal Soaps and Scrubs, Ikebana Tray. For more information call (608) 987-3292 or to register visit www.ShakeRagAlley.com.

March 22, 2016, Gardening for Pollinators, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Butterflies, bees, and many other pollinators provide critical ecosystem services by pollinating both food crops and wildflowers alike. Unfortunately, these creatures are threatened by a variety of human impacts. Frank Hassler from Good Oak Ecological Services will discuss what you can do to make your yard a haven for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and the many other "little things that run the world." If weather permits, we will take a stroll through Olbrich's outdoor gardens to see some of the plants highlighted in the presentation from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 23, 2016, Seed Starting 101, Green Bay, WI

Join MGv Lynn Clark to learn the art of growing your own vegetable plants from seeds. Class will include planning, seed selection, growing mix, equipment, and general knowledge to increase your seed germination success. Sponsored by the NEW MGA and Brown Co. UW-Extension, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI. \$5. Pre-register by sending your contact information and payment to: Hort Dept., Brown County UW-Extension, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI 54302. For more information contact the Brown County UW-Extension Horticulture Department at (920) 391-4653 or kathy.dechamps@ces.uwex.edu.

February and March Calendar of Events (Continued)

March 24, 2016, Plants and Designs for Sensory Gardens, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

While we all strive for beautiful gardens to enjoy visually, there are some specific ways to make sure the garden satisfies all of the senses. By incorporating scent, sound, tactile engagement, and taste, the sensory garden can be achieved in dramatic fashion. Mark Dwyer, director of horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens, will discuss specific plants, design features, and other garden components to create a space for "all inclusive sensory enjoyment" in this class from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 26, 2016, Fruit Tree Grafting, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Do you wish your ornamental crabapple tree had large juicy apples? Maybe your fruiting apple tree is too much to handle and you wish you had a crabapple tree. These are just a couple of reasons to practice the age-old art of grafting. For centuries, people have been changing fruit trees to suit their needs, and you can too! Join John Holzwart from noon to 2:00 p.m. for a comprehensive presentation explaining several approaches to grafting, followed by a demonstration and hands-on practice. You will graft and take home two semi-dwarf fruit trees of your choice (apple, pear, or plum). Root stocks and scionwood (fruit tree cuttings) provided. Additional plant materials will be available to purchase for grafting more trees at home. \$33 (\$27 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 26, 2016, Scionwood Exchange, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Attention all fruit tree grafters and growers! Here is your chance to exchange plant material. Join us for a fun time trading fruit tree cuttings. Newbies and seasoned grafters will mingle and swap scionwood of various fruit trees. Do you have a special apple or pear tree in your yard? Cuttings of that tree might have some value to others! All we ask is that you bring a few labeled cuttings of dormant scionwood; no patented varieties please. If you are picking up scionwood, bring plastic bags. If you are bringing scionwood to trade or give away, please be ready to supply a botanical name and description of the fruit. Free. For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

March 26, 2016, Spring Garden Conference, Marinette, WI

Sponsored by Northern Lights MGA at UW Marinette Campus. Melinda Myers is the Keynote "Garden Renovations for any Size Landscape". Book signing and all day sessions and workshops. \$40 registration fee due by March 18th. visit online [Http://marinette.uwex.edu](http://marinette.uwex.edu)

March 29, 2016, Emphasizing Foliage in the Garden, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville, WI

While all gardeners enjoy flowers, the importance of foliage in the garden can't be overstated. Foliage offers a wide range of colors and textures which frequently provide a longer season of interest as well. We'll explore a wide range of annuals, perennials and woody plants that get a grade of A+ for excellent foliage in this class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$5 (\$3 members). For more information see the rotary garden website.

March 29, 2016, Sustainable Gardens: Creating and Maintaining Meadow Gardens, Olbrich Botanical, Madison, WI

Green or sustainable gardens make sense for many reasons - they're good for the environment and they're good for us. Many people want lush, green lawns, but don't have the time, nor want to see precious resources like water and energy and large amounts of pesticides go into growing them. Director of Horticulture Jeff Epping researched and implemented a number of new gardens at Olbrich that are very environmentally sound and can be easily incorporated into home landscapes. He will show you how Olbrich has replaced a number of traditional lawns with sustainable and beautiful meadows - both in sun and shade areas - and how to maintain them. The presentation from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. is based on Epping's first-hand experience creating and maintaining the many meadows at Olbrich and elsewhere. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.



Earn Education Hours!



Portage County UW-Extension
1462 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point WI 54481-2947

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www.portage.uwex.edu
denise.rocha@ces.uwex.edu



2016 Plant Disease Outlook

Thursday, March 17 @ 7 PM

UWSP Campus

College of Professional Studies Building, Room 317

Presented by "Dr. Death"

Dr. Brian D. Hudelson

Department of Plant Pathology, UW-Madison/Extension



FREE - Pre-Registration Required

Seating is limited. Please, let us know if your plans change.

I. Register On-Line at <https://goo.gl/srp6UV>

Scan the QR Code



2. or Call 715-346-1316

February Gardening Guide

You still can't actually do a lot IN the garden, but there are gardening related activities you can do.

- **Plan** Relax with a stack of garden catalogs and plan for the next season. Plot your garden or property on graph paper
- **Force bulbs**
- **Order seeds** early, some sell out quickly.
- **Start seeds** By the end of January or in February you can start the slow growing plants such as parsley, thyme, tarragon, geraniums and sage. Also start the early cool season vegetables such as chives, onion and leeks. By the end of February or in March you can start seeds

for tomatoes, peppers, annuals and perennials.

- **Feed the birds**
- **Sort tubers** Sort through stored tubers, roots and bulbs for dahlias, cannas, glads and begonias. Dispose of anything that has shriveled or decayed.
- **Keep a Garden Journal** Work on, or start, your garden journal. Keep track of plants you want to try, record garden results, keep track of what you plant where and how many for a shopping list next spring.
- **Attend seminars** clinics and meetings hosted by master gardeners and university extension services.

- **Re-apply anti-desiccant** If you get a nice day above freezing, re-apply anti-desiccant spray to evergreens.



Submitted by Margaret Parsons