

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



ISSUE 4 | fall 2023 | VOLUME 2

OUR MISSION To serve the needs of gardeners in Sheboygan County by providing research-based, environmentally sound horticultural information and educational opportunities. | To promote the understanding of responsible horticultural practices and environmental stewardship. | To develop and increase horticultural knowledge for all members while providing opportunities to share knowledge in social settings.

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Fundraisers

Thank you to the following businesses for their contributions and/or donations:

Caan Floral and Greenhouses: seed packets for our first Seed Swap

Nourish Farms: allowed us to use their facility for our Seed Swap

Caan's Holiday Fundraiser - due October 6th

Caan's has once again invited our group to participate in their 2023 Holiday Fundraiser to raise money for our organization. It's hard to think about Christmas when we're just entering the Fall season; however, to meet their order deadline for fresh greens, Caan's needs our orders. The attached brochure lists the items available to purchase. Or, if you prefer, you can purchase gift cards in the amounts of \$25, \$50 or \$100. These make great gifts. Won't you please consider participating? Our group receives 20% to 25% on all voucher purchases and 10% on all gift card purchases. We will use the proceeds to fund future events.

Simply provide your name, address, and telephone number on the attached order form, indicate the items you'd like to purchase and attach your payment made out to Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association. All orders are due by October 6th at the very latest. You will receive your vouchers around October 16th. You can redeem the vouchers from November 10- December 15. Shop early for the best selection. Vouchers do expire; however, Caan's will honor them for a reasonable amount of time after the expired date. Gift cards do not expire.

You can send your order to Debbie Ott in three ways:

1. At the SCMGGA Fall Soup Cook-off on September 28, Debbie will be there to collect your order form and payment.
2. If you prefer to mail your order form, please send it to Debbie Ott, 2426 N. 28 Street, Sheboygan, WI 53083. Keep in mind, she must receive your order by the deadline of October 6.
3. You can also drop off your order at the UW Extension office for Tammy Zorn to forward it to me. The last date to drop off orders there is October 6.

Thank you for considering participating in our fundraiser.

Debbie Ott

SCMGGA Fundraising Committee Member



[Download File](#)

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS



REMINDER: Fall Soup Cook-off Contest September 28, 2023 (Thursday)

UW Green Bay – Sheboygan Campus

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Enter the Soup Cook-off by bringing your favorite fall soup. Or come to sample and judge the entries. We will award prizes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place soups! We will post the recipes posted on our website.

A short business meeting will be held from 4:00 - 4:15. Soup tasting and judging will start at 4:20. We are looking for 8 members to bring a crockpot of soup and about 5 members to bring a pie or a fall dessert.

RSVP IS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT.

Annual Meeting at the Sheboygan Yacht Club

Thursday, October 19, 2023

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Dessert Bar and Coffee; Bar will be open to purchase drinks.

Mushroom Photo Contest Voting



[Download File](#)

Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association Events (continued)



We have an Open Board Position for 2024

Do you want to have input on the future of the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association? Do you want to get your volunteer hours in without doing any heavy lifting? We have one position on our Board that needs to be filled for 2024. We are really a fun group and would love to have you join us! Please email or talk to any Board member and let us know if you are interested.

NOVEMBER 2023

Cooking Demo - Mushrooms

Kickoff for 2024 Check our website for details.

EDUCATION

WIMGA's Continuing Education

Invasive Species

Presented by Matt Wallrath, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator
September 27, 6:30pm

Restoring Native Prairie Stream & Savanna: Restoration in Progress

Presented by Dr. Susan Carpenter,
October 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Bring Your Garden to the Sun: All About Container and Straw Bale Gardening

Presented by: Craig LeHoullier
January 16

For more information on the WIGMA programs visit their website at:

https://www.wimga.org/files/ugd/ebc610_2754b3b08ac9405db0c5e9499be1b323.pdf

Notice of WIGMA Special Meeting

Monday October 16

6:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held on ZOOM and the order of business will include the approval of proposed changes to the existing WIMGA By-Laws.

EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

FALL LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN CARE

Presented by: Melinda Myers

September 19th, 6:30 p.m.

Fall is a great time to prepare your gardens and lawn for the winter and ready for an eye-catching spring display. Melinda will share eco-friendly tips for taking care of new and established native and non-native plants, flowerbeds, mixed borders, rain gardens and lawns. She will cover fall watering and fertilization as well as tips for protecting plants from challenging winter weather and wildlife damage. This approach to sustainable fall landscape care also includes tips for attracting and supporting songbirds and providing homes for overwintering pollinators and other beneficial insects.

Webinar is underwritten by MMSD and Fresh Coast Guardians and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library

To Register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_myBBiFJSiuxhJYO1O6exQ#/registration

American Horticultural Society is offering a new national program branch: Lifelong Learning! From roses to wildflowers, from deserts to tropics, the inaugural semester features more than twenty internationally celebrated horticulturists and plant professionals representing regions across the United States and beyond. While the classes were designed for AHS members, anyone at any level of gardening enthusiasm may sign up.

[Registration is now open – see the fall 2023/winter 2024 semester offerings!](#)

SCMGA Challenge

Growing Mushrooms

By Abbie Palenske



At the mushroom event, I was the lucky winner of an Oyster Table Top Farm kit from Field and Forest. The set up was very easy. I simply opened the box containing the ready-to-fruit mushroom block and using a sharp knife, I cut a diagonal slit from corner to corner. Next, I put it on my counter. It can be grown on any surface that receives indirect sun or incandescent light and stays at room temperature between 55 to 75°F. Once it is set up there is very little that needs to be done. The only thing the mushrooms may require is occasional misting if you live in a house with low humidity. Some yellow liquid pooled in the plastic but I was told by the friendly people from Field and Forest that that is normal. Tiny mushrooms, or pins began

SCMGA Challenge (continued)

Growing Mushrooms (continued)

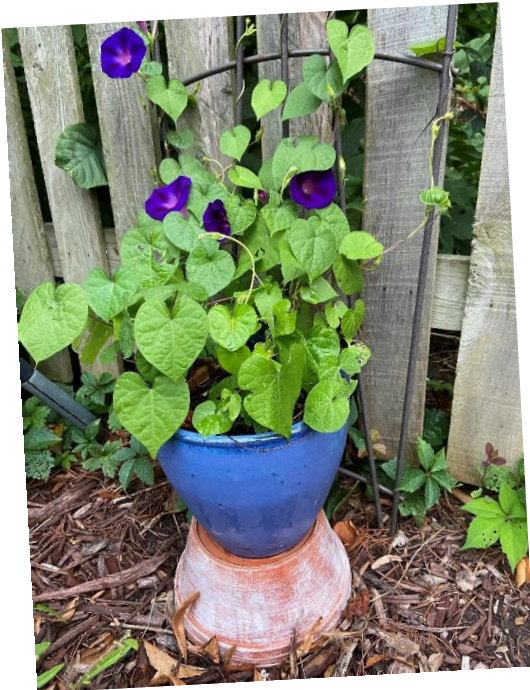
growing after several weeks. Once they started growing, they got big very fast! Each of these pictures is one day apart. To harvest, you simply grab the cluster of mushrooms, twist and pull them off the block. You can store your harvest in the fridge for up to 10 days but we ate ours right away in a pasta dish. After the first harvest, you can also turn your block over, cut into the block on the other side and get another crop.



SCMGA Challenge (continued)

My Rabbit Challenge

By Lynn Thornton



Rabbits have been more of a problem this year, as I'm guessing that the lack of rain earlier this summer had something to do with it. I've never had rabbits eat my morning glories before. I had planted Heirloom Grandpa Ott Morning Glory seeds in the ground, and they were growing nicely. To my surprise, they were eaten to the ground early one morning. I solved this problem by planting more in a pot and then placing that pot on top of an upside-down pot to keep them out of reach (see photo below). It has been 6 weeks and I now have morning glories! I'll do this again next year right away. I can't wait to save seeds for planting next summer.

Keeping Gardeners Safe

by Melinda Myers



Call 811 before you dig is a message worth repeating. Thanks to April being Safe Digging Month, 811 Day (August 11th), and efforts by you and others we are seeing greater awareness. The 2021 Common Ground Alliance Public Awareness Research Study found 74% of people doing projects that involved digging were aware of this free service. Almost 50% of them contacted 811 or their local underground utility locating service before placing the first shovel in the ground. This is an improvement but still leaves more

opportunities for us to make people aware of the service and encourage them to take this important step when their projects involve digging. Let's work together to continue to remind

Keeping Gardeners Safe (continued)

anyone in Wisconsin digging with a shovel, posthole digger or anything else (including hand tools) that disturbs the soil that they are required to contact Diggers Hotline. They can do so by dialing 811 or filing online at www.DiggersHotline.com. This is a free service that helps protect Wisconsin residents from injury and repair costs that may occur if they strike or damage a buried utility line.

As you chat with fellow gardeners about this free service, questions are sure to arise. Here are a few I often receive, and you are likely to encounter:

Yes, they must contact Diggers Hotline no matter how deep they need to dig. This is not just for projects that involve large equipment and deep holes. This is important because the depth of utility lines can vary. Erosion, soil settling, previous projects, and uneven surfaces are a few of the reasons the utility depth can vary. This means there is still a risk of striking an underground utility even when digging just a few inches.

Use hand tools when digging within 18" on either side of any marked underground utility. This state law mandate is meant to keep you safe since utility locating is not an exact science. The 18" buffer zone reduces the risk of damage that is more likely to occur when using mechanized equipment close to the marks.

Remind them that private lines from things like propane lines, sewer laterals, landscape lighting or irrigation that are contained within their property will not be marked. A locating company can be hired to mark private lines. Click [here](#) to find a company near you.

Thanks for your help with this important step in helping reduce the risk of injury and the cost to repair damage when someone fails to call 811 or file online with Diggers Hotline.

It is always best to ask who will contact Diggers Hotline when hiring a professional to work on your property. The professional is the one required by law to contact Diggers Hotline, and it's best to confirm that they will before they begin work.

A three-business day advance notice is required and once the utility locate request is made with Diggers Hotline, they will receive a list of the utility facility owners and their phone numbers.

A three-working day advance notice is required to give utility company representatives time to arrive at the digging location so that they can mark the location of their underground lines. They will use paint or flags to indicate the approximate location of those lines. Your location request for Diggers Hotline will have your project's start date and time. Make sure that you don't begin digging until that start date and time.

Tidbits from My Reading

by Sue Mathews



The Prairie in Seed: Identifying seed-bearing prairie plants in the Upper Midwest, by Dave Williams

I plan to take this book when I go walking in a prairie in the fall—especially if I am collecting seeds. The author has more than seventy photographed plants along with photos of the flowers in bloom, their seed heads, and individual seeds. Also included are how many seeds to expect from a plant, how to tell if they are ripe, how long they will stay on the plant, as well as how to collect, clean and store the seeds. I

sure wish I'd had this book 10 years ago!

Parking Lot Weeds. Flower Philosophy: Seasonal Projects to Inspire & Restore, by Anna Potter

So many gorgeous floral arrangements in this book from a British florist; but my favorite idea is from the introduction to this section. "So often we pass by plants we consider weeds without seeing the beauty and value they so generously offer to us.



A celebration of the overlooked and unwanted, this arrangement captures the spirit of the plants we see huddled in the corners of parking lots, forcing their way out of the cracks in concrete pavements and thriving on roadside verges."

'New Plant' Survival over Winter (When You Don't Have a Bed to Plant Into), National Gardening Association. [Weekly Newsletter for Garden.org](https://www.garden.org/newsletter/)

We've all done it. Found the perfect plant at the perfect price in a nursery closeout when it's just too late to plant it with any confidence it will appear the following spring. But you don't really need to get the plant in the ground. You just need to get the pot into the ground. Find an out of the way spot in your garden (an empty raised bed is ideal) dig a hole and sink the pot into it. Top with a light mulch and wait until spring. Odds are great that the plant will do fine.

Leaf Mulch: Nature's Gift to Gardeners, by Chris Lambton. [Fiskars® website](https://www.fiskars.com/).

Leaves contain 50-80% of the nutrients extracted from the soil by a tree's roots. This makes leaves a valuable resource and recycling this resource will replenish the soil and feed anything planted in it.

Tidbits from My Reading (continued)

Using leaves as a soil mulch (like Mother Nature does) has several functions:

- Stops the growth of weeds around the base of plants.
- Helps maintain soil moisture by reducing surface evaporation.
- Keeps soil temperatures consistent.
- Prevents soil erosion and crusting.
- Adds valuable nutrients.



Shredded leaves work best as they look nicer, decompose faster and are easier to work into the soil. The easiest way to shred leaves is with your lawn mower; but a leaf shredder or a blower/vac/mulcher will also do the job.

Shredded leaves are also a fine mulch for your lawn; but you will need to work harder to make a fine textured mulch. The goal is to create a mulch which will settle into the grass and not a wet, thick layer of leaves to smother it.



How to Deadhead 50 Perennials, [Garden Gate Online](#)

“Deadheading, or cutting off spent and dead flowers, is a fantastic way to tidy up your garden. But there are other benefits, too: Cutting back at the right time and in the right way can help you prolong the bloom time or even get a second flowering out of many plants. Others will reseed all over the place if you don’t keep their spent flowers

picked off. Check out what deadheading can do for 50+ favorite perennials — and learn the best time to do it.”



Remembering Theresa Claerbout

Former Master Gardener member, Theresa Claerbout, passed away at her home on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at the age of sixty-four.

She trained as a Master Gardener in 2016 and was a member in good standing through 2021 until her health no longer allowed her to participate.

Theresa was an avid gardener and a fitness instructor for many years at the Sheboygan YMCA. She was an active member of her church and enjoyed serving in various capacities.

You may have worked with Theresa. Her MG activities included:

Camp Y-Koda: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The Garden Walk in 2017

Trail Head Sheboygan Falls (Meadowlark location) 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Plymouth Arts Center in 2017.

PHOTO: Theresa teaching children how to plant pumpkins at Camp Y-Koda

Your Board of Directors

President: Deb Erickson,

ericksondame@charter.net

Vice-President: Lynn Thornton,

lynnthornton2001@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sue Mathews, sukarma2@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Val Gillman, vgillman@wi.rr.com

Member-at-Large: Barb Klaves,

bjklaves@gmail.com

WIMGA Representative, Connie

Gross, bernice627@aol.com



Please send questions and/or how you would like to put your interests to help benefit our organization to anyone on our board (listed above).

Our Address: Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association | UW Green Bay – Sheboygan Campus | 5 University Drive | Sheboygan, WI 53081 | <https://scmastergardener.weebly.com/>