

# SHEBOYGAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



## ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 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.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- June is Pollinator Month
- Upcoming Educational and Events
- Growing Your Own Mushrooms
- Glenbeulah Prairie Project
- *Tid Bits by Sue Mathews*



## NATIONAL POLLINATORS MONTH

National Pollinators Month in June encourages the planting of pollinator gardens of native, non-invasive pollen and nectar-producing plants. When these gardens bloom, they attract bees, birds, bats, and other natural pollinators.

Each of these creatures makes the difference between valuable fruits and vegetables on our tables and going without. As we plant and encourage these natural habitats, we're putting food on the table, too. According to the National Wildlife Federation, pollinators are responsible for 1 of every 3 bites we take. That's a lot of pollinating! And many wildflowers provide more than just something pretty to look at. Their root systems prevent erosion and many of them provide flavorful and healthful teas and herbal remedies.

While we're planting native flowers and trees, we're also providing for our future. Pollinators such as the monarch butterfly and the honeybee have been in decline. While all the reasons have not been identified, increasing the available habitat does help! Encouraging the growth of natural habitats also attracts pollinators.

### HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalPollinatorsMonth #BeeCounted

Do you have a spot that could benefit from a pollinator garden? Well, get planting! Find out which are the best plants for your zone. Visit [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) to find out more. Honey, you won't regret it. Try these tips to get started on the right path to a pollinator garden:

- Choose bright flowers – The colors and scent attract pollinators to your garden.
- Plant for every season – While this means primarily choosing a variety of plants so you're attracting pollinators all year long, it also has another purpose. In the winter,

## NATIONAL POLLINATORS MONTH [cont'd]

these plants may be dormant, but they will provide a variety of seeds for pollinators to eat, bringing them back year after year.

- Welcome insects – Most of them are pollinators, too. Good bugs have the benefit of helping to keep pests at bay.
- Invite birds to your garden – Add birdhouses, provide seed or flowers they enjoy, supply a water source.



What flowers and trees will you be planting? Let us know by using #NationalPollinatorsMonth or #BeeCounted to share on social media.

The National Wildlife Federation initiated National Pollinators Month to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators. With pollinators on the decline, their initiative aims to increase native pollen and nectar production through the Million Garden Challenge.

Source: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-pollinators-month-june/>

## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

### June 2023

University of Wisconsin-Madison Horticulture Program

#### **Gardening for Pollinators**

Tuesday, June 6

Noon

For more information and to register, visit: [bit.ly/3QNUdms](https://bit.ly/3QNUdms)

#### **Learn How to Take Better Flower Photos\_ - presented by Lynn Thornton (Master Gardener)**

Monday, June 12, 2023

1:30 - 2:30 pm

UW Green Bay - Sheboygan Campus

Master Gardeners are encouraged to invite a guest. Please RSVP to Lynn Thornton,

[lynnthornton2001@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnthornton2001@yahoo.com)

#### **Gourmet's Delight Mushroom Farm Tour**

N4970 Co Rd H, Eden, WI 53019

Monday, June 19th at 3:00 pm

Founded by the Floyd family in 1980, Gourmet's Delight Mushroom Farm is MOSA certified organic and grows thousands of pounds of white button, cremini, and portabella mushrooms

### UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS [cont'd.]

each week. We will have the opportunity to tour this local farm and growing facility run by the Floyd family for the last 24 years. They grow a variety of organic mushrooms indoors. Join us as our Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association celebrates “the year of the mushroom” on an approximately one-hour tour. We are limited to 30 people, so sign up early to guarantee your space.

**Tour information:** Monday, June 19th at 3 pm. Try to arrive 10 mins before 3:00. The tour will be 45 – 75 minutes long (depending on interest and questions). Limited to 30 people. **Reserve your space before Monday, June 12th.** Carpooling is encouraged. You will be able to purchase mushrooms in their store area after the tour.

**Participants must wear clean clothing and close-toed shoes.**

Email [vgillman@wi.rr.com](mailto:vgillman@wi.rr.com) to reserve a spot.

To visit the Gourmet’s Delight Mushroom Farm website, click on:

[http://www.sustainusa.org/familyfarmed/profile\\_gourmetdelight.html](http://www.sustainusa.org/familyfarmed/profile_gourmetdelight.html)

### Wildflower Walk at Maywood with Karen Merlau (Master Gardener)

Tuesday, June 20

6:00 pm.

**Rain date: Thursday, June 22nd at 6:00 pm**

### July 2023

**Garden Crawl more information to follow!**

### Sheboygan Area Garden Walk

Saturday, July 15

9 A.M. – 4 P.M. [rain or shine]

### August 2023

#### Garden Harvest Potluck

Tuesday, August 22

UW Green Bay - Sheboygan

4:30 - 6:30 pm

Celebrate the summer harvest! Join us as we join to share a meal while enjoying the bounty of our gardens. Bring a dish to pass and bring the recipe too. RSVP is required for this event.

### Mark your Calendars for this September Event

#### Fall Soup Cook-off

Thursday, September 28

UW Green Bay - Sheboygan

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Enter the Cook-off by bringing your favorite fall soup. Or join us to sample and judge the entries. Prizes will be given!

An RSVP is required for this event.

## GROWING YOUR OWN MUSHROOMS



During a recent demonstration Barb and Miles Klaves discussed the process of growing mushrooms using the totem technique with logs harvested from their own property. They have been growing several types of mushrooms for many years. These photos demonstrate how simple it is to do. Collect some recently cut logs, prepare the spawn, connect the two, then set the spawn-seeded logs aside and let time and nature do its work.

For more details check the [Field and Forest Products](#) website. Barb and Miles purchase their spawn from this Peshtigo company which makes mushroom growing easy.



At the end of the presentation there was a drawing to win a mushroom growing kit. Congratulations to Abbey Palenske! Since winning the kit, Abbey has decided to make this her “Challenge” project. She is taking photos and making notes so she can tell us about her project in the fall newsletter!

## **GLENBEULAH PRAIRIE PROJECT: Starting a Park from Scratch**

By Susan Brown, Master Gardener

For years, the village of Glenbeulah had planned for a street to connect with two lots which lie along the Mullet River. But no houses were ever built on the lots, and the street was not built either. In 1985 the owners, Ernest and Ione Meyer, donated the lots to the village so that, along with the strip for the unbuilt street, the property could become a public park of 1.2 acres. But little was done to beautify the park. It felt empty and uninviting, and so it was seldom used. Meyer Park was unrealized potential for 35 years.

This is where Master Gardener Barb Schaefer entered the picture. As a resident of Glenbeulah, it bothered her to have public space go unused. Better to have the park be a beautiful area enjoyed by the public. The village Board agreed. But making the property into an inviting public space presented a host of problems.

- Without even a sign to mark the entrance, there was nothing to announce that this was public land or demarcate the boundary between the park space and the neighbors' yards.
- The entrance strip (where the street would have gone) was grass, but the rest of the property was scrubland – not an inviting prospect to draw people in.
- One of the most attractive features was the shoreline of the Mullet River and the Mill Pond beyond. But the river's edge was overgrown with invasive species and in places was steeply eroded.

For the last four years Barb has spearheaded efforts to address these issues. Other Master Gardeners may get ideas from the lessons she has learned.

### **Look for outside sources for revenue.**

A project of this size requires some major funding. At the instigation of the Village Board, Barb applied for and received a grant from the Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund, which develops recreation opportunities and helps to conserve the County's natural resources. The grant would supply \$7,000, which is half the expected cost of \$14,000. The process of applying for the grant was helpful because it forced the planners to get specific about their goals and how to accomplish them. The land was surveyed to clearly identify the boundaries. A prairie naturalist observed the site to be sure the soil would support the prairie which would be planted near the river. The application form asked for descriptions of the recreational aspects of the park, the economics involved, and a plan for continued maintenance. Writing this type of grant proposal is feasible for a lay person, though it takes a lot of time and effort.

### **Collaborate with other stakeholders.**

Meyer Park belongs to the village of Glenbeulah, so the village government and the fire department have been involved in the planning, construction work and maintenance. Board president Doug Daun has been a driving force with these matters and getting support from

local businesses. The firefighters and village workers are doing big jobs like taking down trees, grading the steepest parts of the riverbank and installing riprap to stop erosion. In the clearing and planting work, Barb has been assisted by volunteers from the village and the local high school, and by members of the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association.

**Create a design that addresses your goals and fits your space.**

Here is where gardening skills get to shine! The park is shaped like a letter P, with a long narrow entrance leading to the large open area which overlooks the river. The planned design uses rows of arborvitae on either side of the strip to separate the park from the properties that adjoin it, and to give a feeling of enclosure. Within the entrance corridor are a series of beds planted with native flowers, shrubs, and flowering trees. Each one is different, which draws the visitor in to look further. There are benches so people can sit and enjoy the flowers and wildlife. At the end of the narrow entryway is the main body of the park. The plan is to plant a prairie here and set up mown paths to encourage visitors to explore it. Along one side of this area is a beautiful view of the Mullet River. The natural parts of the riverbank have already been cleared of invasive plants. and native species have been planted in their place. Looking ahead, it is a multi-year process to control the invasives.

**Be creative about finding materials.**

There are inexpensive sources for building materials and plants if you look hard. In this project, flagstone was scavenged from the riprap brought in to control riverbank erosion. The rock is being used to set off the flower beds and build a paved seating area. Individuals and businesses have donated many items. Some of the plants came from gardens in the neighborhood. An area charity uses donated wood in projects for disabled veterans; they were happy to haul away large trees that had been cut down.

Some of the lessons learned are less about garden construction and more about working with people.

- To help sell your project, develop a clear plan and be able to explain what will make it a success. Cost is always a hurdle. The fact that the Meyer Park project was relatively cheap helped to get buy-in from the Village Board. Also helpful was the fact that early on an anonymous donor made a sizeable contribution; this showed that there was commitment to the project.
- Understand that not all people know a lot about gardening or nature, perhaps including people whose approval you need and some you want to work on the project. Be prepared to be a teacher.
- You may need to find sources of information, such as the DNR, university resources about plants and gardening, or information about government procedures and policy. To get the background knowledge you need, be prepared to do research, and locate knowledgeable people.
- Be flexible! Understand that things often don't go according to plan. Some of this project's most interesting details have been created to cover up a mistake.



Area along the Mullet River in Glenbeulah devoted to Meyer Park



The park entrance before the project began.





Areas for flower beds with a flagstone seating area planned for the middle section.



Early stages of flower bed planting



Riverbank, part natural and part riprap to prevent erosion.

## Tid Bits from My Reading

By Sue Mathews

***Snap Better Garden Photos with Your Smartphone.*** Garden Gate Magazine, Feb 2023.



You don't need a professional camera to shoot great garden pictures. Your smartphone will do an incredibly good job. Start by learning the features and functions of your specific phone. But here are a few more tips from a professional.

### **Pay Attention to the Light:**

**Overcast Sky** *caused by soft clouds* any time of the day produces photos with more saturated colors and minimizes the difference between highlights and shadows. If you can barely see your shadow on the

ground, it's a good time to photograph gardens.

**Bright Sun** creates harsh highlights and dark shadows and details often get lost. On a sunny day it's best to take photos early or late when the light isn't as harsh.

**Backlit** photos created by shooting toward the sun can create dramatic effects. It can make a plant glow, or you can capture rays of light beaming in your garden. It works best when the sun is low in the sky in the morning or evening. Frame your photo so the sun is not in the picture, whether it's slightly out of view, blocked by a structure, or even directly behind the subject.

**Explore Different Angles** Try taking shots of the same subject from many angles to see which you like best. Pay attention to distracting elements in the background like power lines, blank

fences, or traffic. Moving left or right a few feet can help you find better angles. Try crouching down and aiming up or shoot from a higher level aiming down.

**Rule of Thirds** Instead of always putting your subject in the middle of the frame, try using the rule of thirds. It lets negative space create contrast with your subject and makes a better artistic composition. Using your camera's grid feature or just mind's eye and divide what you see in your viewfinder into nine equal spaces. Move the subject into the lower or upper corners of the grid, filling the rest of the space with a neutral feature.

**Tap to Select** Have you noticed that your smartphone camera sometimes homes in on something other than you intended? That's the auto-focus feature. Tapping on the screen tells your camera where to focus and adjust the exposure. Tap on different spots in the frame to see what exposure you like best.

**Experiment with Portrait Mode** Portrait mode blurs the background and helps the subject stand out better. Some cameras allow you to adjust the sharpness of the background of a photo taken in portrait mode. This is a great feature for a photo with a distracting background.

**For a fun, local photography class, plan to attend the Learn How to Take Better Photos presented by Lynn Thornton. This is listed in the upcoming classes and events opportunities listing. Hope to see you there!**



### **Monarch Winter 2022-23 Population Numbers Released.**

**Arboretum News,**

March 21, 2023

Sadly, the population numbers of Monarch Butterflies have declined 22% from 2021-22. [Read more about it here.](#)

### **Cologne as a Deer Deterrent. Fine Gardening, June 2023**

To keep deer away from bedding or potted plants soak the tops of bamboo sticks in a strongly scented men's cologne. Leave them to soak for 2-3 days in a plastic bag. Place the sticks into the garden near plants that need protecting. Deer and raccoons stay far away for about a month after which you need to refresh the scent. It's your bathroom reed diffuser on steroids.



### **Pictures of Native Plant Seedlings and Spring Emergence. [Growitbuildit.com](http://Growitbuildit.com)**

If you have ever planted a native seed mix in the fall, you have probably been scratching your head the next spring, as seeds sprout, and you can't decide what they are. Are they the desirable natives you planted...or weeds? And in subsequent years it can be difficult to identify returning plants in a randomly planted native plot. What is that purple and green rosette? A few days ago, on a native plant Facebooks page I commented that I wished someone would publish a guide to seedlings and newly sprouted plants. To my disappointment, no one popped up to say, "check such and such." To my great delight, I received an email from a blog I follow with their guide to the seedlings

and spring emergence of eighty native plants...almost everything I have planted in winter-sown jugs or strewn on the ground. If you have a need to identify native plant seedlings, this is a great source. Butterfly weed is slow to appear each spring, but this photo tells you what to look for.

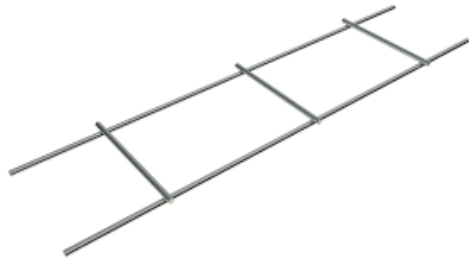
**The Chelsea Chop** [Growitbuildit.com](http://Growitbuildit.com)

The Chelsea Chop is a pruning technique where you cut back perennials by one-third to one-half of their height in spring. It results in a more compact plant with longer, sturdier stems. It prevents some plants from flopping, leaning, or tipping over...resulting in a nicer looking plant.



The Chelsea Chop originated in England and referred to the Chelsea Flower Show which occurs at the end of May and coincides with the time gardeners do the chop in England's climate. But, in our climate, there is still plenty of time to do the Chelsea Chop. For details on what plants to chop and how to do it check out the article.

**Handy Plant Supports.** *Fine Gardening*, April 2023.



Following a local election, collect discarded campaign signs, and repurpose the metal holders into sturdy plant stakes. Or visit your local home improvement store and buy 10-foot galvanized-steel masonry ladders for under \$5. With a hacksaw make simple cuts to create 2 or 3 sections suitable for holding up whatever plants are flopping in your garden.

## Your Board of Directors

President: Deb Erickson, [ericksondame@charter.net](mailto:ericksondame@charter.net)

Vice-President: Lynn Thornton, [lynnthornton2001@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnthornton2001@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Sue Mathews, [sukarma2@yahoo.com](mailto:sukarma2@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Val Gillman, [vgillman@wi.rr.com](mailto:vgillman@wi.rr.com)

Member-at-Large: Barb Klaves, [bjklaves@gmail.com](mailto:bjklaves@gmail.com)

WIMGA Representative, Connie Gross, [bernice627@aol.com](mailto: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  
Extension Sheboygan County  
5 University Drive  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
<https://scmastergardener.weebly.com/>



I hope you have enjoyed the new summer issue and ask that if you ever have an idea, photograph, or an article that you would like to share please let me know. You can email me, Stephanie Larson, at; [slcreativecom51@gmail.com](mailto:slcreativecom51@gmail.com)