



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Extension Sheboygan County
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Sheboygan County Master Gardener



Member Focus

By Christina Wilke-Burbach, President, Sheboygan County Master Gardeners

Christina Wilke-Burbach, Sheboygan Master Gardener member and president is launching a podcast she has titled, *Garden Goth*, which will be part of the new Community Radio Station at Mead Public Library. Her podcast will begin in early March.

“The mission of my podcast is to attract and engage younger, and more diverse gardeners in Sheboygan County while educating others on a plethora of gardening and horticulture concepts,” said Christina. As a psychologist who specializes in alternative medicine and spirituality, she will also feature these topics in her podcast.

Her podcast, *Garden Goth* focusses on the duality of life and death. “Nothing illustrates the cycle of life and death better than plants, the four seasons, and the circle of the sun. Things sprout and begin to grow and are reborn (spring). They fire up or ignite or bloom (summer) and reach completeness (late summer). They begin to dry and wither and die (autumn). They rest (winter). Then they are reborn again in spring. These seasons – or “elements” or “phases” – include an inherent understanding that the cycle continues endlessly, with each period of rest or winter followed by new growth, or spring. This cycle of life and death is perpetual in nature.”

Garden Goth is inspired by the Gothic Movement, which is seeped deep in the Victorian era (late 1800s/early 1900) and its attempt to cope with frequent death and loss and the subsequent powerful emotions. “One of the ways Victorians coped with life and death was by creating and maintaining elaborate, dramatic gardens. In modern times, our recent pandemic has once again made people question their mortality and the way they live their life.” Studies have shown that interest in gardening has risen in the past few years due to the pandemic. “People are spending more time at home, have more free time, and want to become more self-sufficient and sustainable.”

Garden Goth is a 3-segment podcast.

Segment 1 (Memento Vivere) focuses on living a big and bold life to the fullest.

Segment 2 (Memento Mori) explores the darker and less understood side of life through gothic gardening, gothic philosophy, gothic literature, gothic music and other taboo and stigmatized things people might fear, due to lack of exposure to, and misunderstanding of these concepts. “The macabre, morbid, mysterious, supernatural, wonderful, and terrorizing. Things that are beyond what is immediately in front of us.”

Segment 3 focuses on gardening, horticulture, sustainability, and land conservation.

“When released, the podcast will be available at [Mead Community Radio | Mead Public Library \(meadpl.org\)](https://meadpl.org).”

In addition, to correlate with Mead Public Library's Winter Green Event, Christina will offer two free gardening classes; “Currently, I will offer two classes, Gardening 101 and Gardening 102.”

Gardening 101 with Christina: [Gardening with Christina: Gardening 101 | Mead Public Library \(meadpl.org\)](https://meadpl.org)

Gardening 102 with Christina: [Gardening with Christina: Gardening 102 | Mead Public Library \(meadpl.org\)](https://meadpl.org)

She hopes to “grow” her garden classes by providing a monthly class throughout the year. “Some of my future classes will include a Gothic Gardening Class (Victorian Gardens), Fairy Mini Gardens, Indoor Gardening, Autumn Gardening, and Winter Gardening.



Member Focus

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Christina Wilke-Burbach PhD is an Herbalist, Certified Aromatherapist, Master Gardener, President of the Sheboygan County Master Gardener, serves on the Board of Directors, is project chair of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center Indoor Gardens. She has taught continuing education gardening classes at UW-Green Bay, is a member of the American Herbalist Guild, a botanical artist, and specializes in Heirloom plants and Gothic Gardening (black/dark plants and dramatic/bold design). She has a PhD in Health Psychology, Training in Transpersonal Psychology, a Masters in Clinical Psychology, a Bachelors in Anthropology, and a Bachelors in Psychology.



Christina Wilke-Burbach

If you have a special program you are involved in and would like to 'highlight' it in a future Sheboygan Master Gardener newsletter please contact, Stephanie Larson, slcreativecom51@gmail.com.

Save the Dates: Events and Educational Opportunities

Our local MGV organization is sponsoring two in person education events this spring. See the information below and plan to attend. Please, RSVP for these events by contacting Tammy Zorn at tammy.zorn@wisc.edu or call, 920-459-5904.

PROJECT SIGN UP EVENT AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Monday, April 4, 2022. UW-Extension Office 5:30 – 7:15 pm

RSVP by Wednesday March 16th. After March 16, we will offer the presentation to other organizations, as space allows.

- The evening begins with project sign up at 5:30 – 6:00pm. Project leaders will be present to answer your questions about the projects as you choose where you wish to work this gardening season.
- 6:00 -7:00 pm – Justin Kroening from Stone Silo Prairie Gardens presentation on incorporating native plants in home landscapes. Justin's presentation can be counted toward your ten required education hours.
- There will be time after Justin's presentation to sign up for projects.
- Dessert and refreshments will be served.

ALIENS IN THE GARDEN

Tuesday, May 3 UW-Extension Office 6:00 pm

RSVP by Monday, April 18th if you plan to attend.

- Matthew Brauer from the Planning and Conservation Department for Sheboygan County will present on "Aliens in the Garden." Find out what to do about these garden invaders. Matthew's presentation can be counted toward your ten required education hours.

Save the Dates: Events and Educational Opportunities

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Other Online Master Gardener Educational Programs

PLANTS PLUS

Are you looking for quick, online learning opportunities?

Log into our Canvas Classroom to see our selection of Plant Plus continuing education packages. Each **Plants Plus** course counts for 1-2 continuing education hours.

Pick from different gardening topics that matter to you and will help you increase your knowledge.

Learn at your own pace; virtually!

NOTE: A New Plants Plus program is available! Protecting Gardens and Pollinators During Winter.

14th Annual LET'S GET GREEN & GROWING!

Virtual Zoom Event

Saturday, March 26, 2022

9:15 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FUNDRAISER

Spring is just around the corner. Watch your e-mail for our Caan's Spring Fundraiser. Support our group with your purchases at no additional cost to you. Details and order form coming soon.

2022 Project Information

It is nearing that time of year when we start thinking about our many gardening projects – both at home and with the Sheboygan Master Gardeners' program.

There are several changes in the Project Listing – look at the list and think about where you might like to volunteer this year.

RETIRED PROJECTS *These projects have met their obligations and are being retired from the Master Gardener Volunteer list. This does not mean these projects will 'wilt', it simply meant that they will be taken over by the sponsoring organization.*

HORTICULTURAL HOTLINE This will be handled through the UW-System

October 11 Memorial and Dutch Settlement Historical Marker: The Cedar Grove Community will take care of the site.

SHEBOYGAN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD The MG Volunteer obligations were met and completed. The ongoing maintenance of this area will be turned over to the High School.

NEW PROJECTS: We are excited to offer two new projects for you to consider.

FUNDRAISING

Debbie Erickson, Project Chair

Deb Ott, Co-Chair

More information about this new project and the volunteer opportunities are being developed and sent out via email soon.

NOURISH

Kris Bemis, Project Chair

Since its inception in 2009, Nourish has supported and promoted local farmers by connecting kids and families in-need to the local food they produce.

Nourish offers proactive, experiential learning activities and programs to encourage individuals and organizations in our community to make more wholesome food choices by growing, cooking, and supporting our local food system. Together we can educate and empower people and create a healthy community. are available at Nourish and answer questions, at the Project Sign-up meeting on April 4.

2022 Project Information

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With its many gardens, educational programs, and community events there is a broad range of volunteer opportunities for Master Gardener volunteers at Nourish this year.

Kris will present the many opportunities that are available at Nourish and answer questions, at the Project Sign-up meeting on April 4.

Long and short-term volunteer opportunities are available. To learn more about the program and review the list of all volunteer opportunities at, <https://nourishfarms.org/volunteer-with-us>. You may also sign up on the Nourish volunteer page and count your time as MG volunteer hours.

VILLAGE OF GLENBEULAH PRAIRIE GARDEN

By Barb Schaefer, Project Chair

The village of Glenbeulah was given an acre of riverfront property many years ago, which remained undeveloped until last year when the village decided to develop this land into a prairie. The past year was spent removing invasive plants. The riverbank will be reconstructed this spring. The goal to plant a prairie and develop a half-acre entrance are in the planning stages. Master Gardener will be essential in this step from the ground up.

ONGOING PROJECTS: These are projects that will continue this year.

◆ **Bookworm Garden**

Contact Bookworm Garden directly to volunteer.
287-7895

◆ **Camp Y-Koda**

Stephanie Larson
207-1951
slcreativecom51@gmail.com

◆ **Children's Museum Garden**

Marty Steinbruecker
946-0206
martystein@charter.net

◆ **Education & Program Committee**

Sue Mathews
458-1848
sukarma2@yahoo.com

◆ **Fresh Meals on Wheels Vegetable Garden**

TBD

◆ **Garden Walk**

Doris Weber
467-3266
doris@johngweber.com

Sally Neuhaus
838-3014
sallyneuhaus@gmail.com

◆ **John Michael Kohler Arts Center Indoor Garden**

Christina Wilke-Burbach
889-1318
mindsoulandself@yahoo.com

◆ **Kohler Andre State Park**

Sue Mathews
458-1848
sukarma2@yahoo.com

◆ **Kohler Foundation/Waelderhaus Herb Garden**

Lynn Thornton
980-6545
lynnthornton2001@yahoo.com

◆ **Lakefront Garden**

Connie Gross
917-7053
bernice627@aol.com

◆ **Marsh Park Tower Project**

Nancy Themar
894-3660
nancythemar@gmail.com

◆ **Master Gardener Fundraising Committee**

Deb Erickson
889-8808
ericksondame@charter.net

Debbie Ott
627-3798
debbieott@charter.net

◆ **Master Gardener Newsletter**

Stephanie Larson
207-1951
slcreativecom51@gmail.com

2022 Project Information

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- ◆ **Maywood Rain Garden**
Marty Steinbruecker
946-0206
martystein@charter.net
- ◆ **Nourish**
Kristin Bemis
452-5614
kristinbemis@gmail.com
- ◆ **Plank Road Trail Trailhead Maintenance
Erie Avenue**
David Eiden
457-8627
deiden@excel.net
- ◆ **Plank Road Trail Trailhead Maintenance
Greenbush**
Val Gillman
893-8215
vgillman@wi.rr.com
- ◆ **Plank Road Trail Trailhead Maintenance
Plymouth—Hwy 57**
Val Gillman
893-8215
vgillman@wi.rr.com
- ◆ **Plank Road Trail Trailhead Maintenance
Sheboygan Falls**
TBD
- ◆ **Plymouth Arts Center**
Pamela Hailer
892-8390
pamhailer@gmail.com
- ◆ **Sensory Gardens**
Stephanie Larson
207-1951
slcreativecom51@gmail.com
- ◆ **Sheboygan County Fair**
Doris Weber
467-3266
doris@johngweber.com

Sally Neuhaus
838-3014
sallyneuhaus@gmail.com
- ◆ **Social/Sunshine Committee - Annual Mtg,
Picnic, Potluck & Parties**
Lori Walker
946-6512
gardengirl31@yahoo.com
- ◆ **Uptown Social** (formerly know as Senior Activity
Center)
Sue Garski
912-8081
suemgarski@gmail.com
- ◆ **UW-Sheboygan Campus Landscaping**
Sherry Speth
467-2002
sspeth@excel.net

Lori Walker
946-6512
gardengirl31@yahoo.com
- ◆ **Village of Glenbeulah Prairie Garden**
Barb Schaefer
526-3091
bsch.f16@gmail.com
- ◆ **Wade House**
Kathy Schneider
526-3235
kssmls@gmail.com
- ◆ **Yankee Garden—Sheboygan Falls**
Vickie Lindstrom
565-2521
vlindstrom@lindstromdds.com

We hope you will plan to attend our Project Sign-up meeting on Monday, April 4. At this meeting you will have an opportunity to meet the project chairpersons, ask questions, and sign up to volunteer at your chosen sites. On that same evening we will be offering an educational program featuring Justin Kroening from Stone Silo Prairie Gardens, DePere, WI.

Tidbits from my Reading

By Sue Mathews

The *Dirt about Dirt*, by Zac Freeman
On Wisconsin, Winter 2021

Wow, who knew? "Soil is alive! It's estimated that 20,000 pounds of living matter exists in the top six inches of an acre of soil. Also, one tablespoon of soil harbors more organisms than there are people on earth."



Prep Your Containers, by Daryl Beyers
Garden Gate, Jan/Feb 2022

Early spring is the perfect time to get a jump on planting your containers. Pull them out of storage, scrub and sanitize them (if you didn't get it done in fall) and fill them to the brim with fresh fluffy potting mix. And a few scoops of fertilizer and set them outside. Spring rains will dampen and settle the mix leaving the perfect amount of space for the root balls of your transplants.

[Space-saving] Vegetables: Choose Your Crops Wisely, by Nikki Jabbour

Garden Gate, Jan/Feb 2022

In a small garden you need to make the most of the space you have and that starts with choosing crops and varieties suited for small spaces. While browsing through seed catalogs look for varieties described as "bush," "dwarf," and "patio."

Peas... 'Patio Pride,' 'Sugar Ann'

Bush Beans... 'Mascotte,' 'Soleil'

Lettuce... 'Tennis Ball,' 'Tom Thumb,' 'Truchas'

Cucumbers... 'Bush Pickle,' 'Patio Snacker'

Tomatoes... 'Micro Tom,' 'Tasmanian Chocolate'

Broccoli... 'Happy Rich,' 'Sweet Stem'

Cabbage... 'Katarina,' 'Pixie'

Sweet & Hot Peppers... 'Basket of Fire' 'Confetti'

'Pot-a-Peño



What soil should I use in raised beds for blueberries?

Garden Gate, Mar/Apr 2022

To grow blueberries in almost any soil, incorporate peat moss into the planting medium. For raised beds add bark (not cedar or redwood), compost and topsoil. For in-ground plants dig a hole 2 ½ wide and 1 foot deep and mix half the soil with an equal amount of moistened peat moss to backfill the planting hole.



Thwart all thorns.

Garden Gate, Mar/Apr 2021

When you are pruning thorny shrubs such as roses, barberry, or yucca or pulling weeds like thistle or stinging nettle, sometimes even sturdy gloves aren't enough protection. Hold a folded newspaper in your hand as extra protection and finish the job unscratched.

Watch roots grow.

Garden Gate, April 2020

Instead of growing seeds in black plastic trays, peat pots and other opaque items, use clear plastic cups. Recycle clear fast-food cups as seed starters and you will be able to see the roots develop, making it easier to see when seedlings have healthy roots and are ready for planting.



Onboarding Reminder

This is a gentle reminder to complete the Master Gardener On-Boarding training if you have not already done so. We currently have 63 Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers and hope that everyone will be able to complete the training.

We hope to capture and record all of the great volunteer time that Sheboygan County Master Gardeners contribute to our area communities by reporting those hours into the Online Reporting System (ORS). It is also the on-going record for each individual MG. V.

• **MGV Onboarding Course 2022**

1 [Request NetID](#)

2

3 [Canvas Course Help](#)

1. Check to make sure you have one of the [recommended browsers](#) and your computer has the [basic specifications](#) for using Canvas.
2. Go to the [Canvas Student Guide](#) for detailed info on how to use Canvas (not all features listed will be activated in your course).
3. Contact the [Learn@UW Help Desk](#). Very important if you are having issues. You must say you are a Lifelong Learner (L3) so they don't mistake you as a student on campus. Several members have said this was very helpful; the people are great at explaining the process and patient with all questions and struggles.
 - Email help@doit.wisc.edu
 - Phone 1-888-435-7589 (staffed 7 days a week from 7AM - 11PM US Central time)
 - Text chat (7 days a week from 8AM - 10PM)

Access the [2022 Onboarding Lite](#) in our [Canvas Classroom](#) (netID required).

• **Welcoming back past volunteers into the State MG program.**

If you had dropped out of the State MG program within the last 5 years, there is an easy entry back into the state organization. We would like to have everybody consider rejoining.

If you would like to re-enter the MG program email wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu or call 608-265-4536 and request to be reinstated. The program office will determine eligibility. You will need to officially reenter the MG state program in order to complete the MG on-boarding training.

• **Entering hours into the ORS is a separate process.**

You must complete the MG on-boarding course before you will be able to enter any hours into ORS.

• **Use your UW-Madison netID to log into Canvas.**

This netID is a special, UW-Madison issued username. You must use your NetID username plus a password to get into Canvas.

It is different than your Online Reporting System (ORS) username and password.

Make sure you save your **Madison netID** for future use in the Canvas platform for virtual educational opportunities.

• **Master Gardener Program Help**

Do you have questions specific to the Master Gardener Program?

Please contact the UW-Madison MG. V. office by phone or email. We will respond within 1-2 business days.

- email wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu
- phone 608-265-4536 [messages]

Ask a Gardening Question

The UW-Madison **Extension Ask a Gardening Question** website is the new approach to answering horticultural questions from the public. The website replaces the Sheboygan County MGV Horticulture Hotline offered for many years by Sheboygan County MGVs. Feel free to use the website yourself, or to help find answers to those difficult horticulture questions you might get from your friends and neighbors.

Here is the link: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question/>

The screenshot shows the 'Ask a Gardening Question' form on the Wisconsin Horticulture website. The header includes the University of Wisconsin-Madison logo and navigation links for Articles, Learning Opportunities, About, and Resources. The main heading is 'Ask a Gardening Question'. The form includes a text box for the question, and input fields for Name (First and Last), Email, and Phone. A dropdown menu is provided for selecting the Wisconsin County. A character count at the bottom indicates 0 of 1650 characters used.

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Articles » Learning Opportunities » About » Resources

Ask Your Gardening Question

Home » Ask a Gardening Question

Ask a Gardening Question

Looking for an expert to advise on your garden questions? Please fill out the form and attach relevant photographs concerning your garden issues. Your inquiry will be responded to by an Extension staff member or a Master Gardener Volunteer in your area. Thank you for visiting the Wisconsin Horticulture website. (For out-of-state garden inquires, please contact your state's respective Extension office.)

Name *

First Last

Email *

Phone

Wisconsin County *

Select Your County

Your Gardening Question *

Please describe your gardening problem or ask your gardening question. (No more than 250 words, please.)

0 of 1650 max characters