



Sheboygan County Master Gardener



Member Focus - Meet Sue Mathews

Sue Mathews became a Master Gardener in 2007. She attended the Project Sign-up meeting and agreed to not only volunteer at Kohler Andre State Park but to chair the project. “When I took on the KASP project I didn’t know much, if anything, about prairie gardening, indigenous planting and the kind of gardening the park required,” said Sue.



When she got to the park, she saw many plants were dying, and several other areas needed quick attention. “I stumbled along, as I think most new Master Gardener volunteers might, and decided I would just have to figure it out. I began tackling my learning curve through research, reading, trial and error, and mostly by turning to other Master Gardeners to ask questions and get advice.”

Sue also volunteered on the UW-Center Master Gardener Hotline. “I was a reference librarian so, this was a good project for me; I knew how to research, find the credible sources, and offer help to callers. I also learned valuable lessons from this volunteer experience.”

Within a year of her becoming a member, Sue was on the Board of Directors. She served as President from 2011-2013. In 2014, after serving on the board for six

years, she stepped down. Over the years, Sue also volunteered to be the Education Chair and publisher of the quarterly Master Gardener newsletter.

Sue is by nature a life-long-learner. She reads, watches educational videos, attends Zoom lectures, and networks with her Master Gardener volunteer peers. “Gardening is as much (if not more) about art as it is science. I am often intrigued by things I watch and try them, to see how it goes.” One example is Winter Sowing. Sue saw a video about this two years ago and tried it. “Some of the effort proved successful, and some failed but it was interesting and a fun way to garden during the winter months.”

If you have a chance to talk to Sue, you will leave with a feel-good feeling. She is always ready to laugh over her trial-and-error experiences but quick to point out that failing brought satisfactory results the next time. “I believe that doing it, and even failing leads to success. I have learned so much more from my failures than my immediate successes.” Friends inspire and this is so appropriate to friendly garden friends! “I’ve had the immense pleasure of having the opportunity to collaborate with Master Gardeners who are so much more knowledgeable. Sherry Speth, as an example has not only been an immense joy to garden with, but her friendly guidance has taught me more than I could have ever learned from a book.”

During our interview Sue gave me words of wisdom. Of course, those [words of wisdom] are my words, she would never use those words to describe herself! Her personal approach is good garden guidance for all of us – whether we are new to the Master Gardener program or ‘masters’ of the program.



Member Focus

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1. We can't learn to garden by reading, we must dig in and learn as we 'grow' both plants and as gardeners.
2. We learn more from doing it. And we learn just as much, if not more, from our failures as from our successes.
3. As a retired Reference Librarian, she will also tell you, to know how to use the internet, make sure you use credible sources – if you aren't sure, ask a fellow Master Gardener.

Sue has recently passed the baton on the newsletter, she is sharing the education role, and the Hotline has moved to the UW-Madison. There is something however that she has not retired from, passion. If you are fortunate enough to work alongside of Sue, be prepared to learn more than you can imagine. Be ready to hear ideas, creative approaches, in-depth conversations about Prairie Plantings and so much more. As the chair of KASP since 2007 there have been notable improvements.

According to Sue, "I tried (and sometimes failed) to keep the gardens blooming with a wider variety of natives and introduce park goers to their beauty". She has also progressed from stumbling along, to learning more about what works and what doesn't. "I figured it out as I went."

I encourage all of us to take a page from Sue Mathews' book of gardening! Don't be afraid to take on a challenge. It will teach you, move you forward, make you a resource, and it will be a beautiful reward. Kohler Andre State Park demonstrates Sue's passion, artistic abilities, strength, talent, and knowledge.

Sue is the same kind of Master Gardener member as she is a gardener – she takes up her shovel and just digs in!

If you'd like to volunteer and the opportunity to work with Sue at Kohler Andre State Park, give her a call at, (920) 458-1848. Or email her at, sukarma2@yahoo.com

Aliens In Our Gardens

Approximately twenty people attended a presentation, "Aliens in our Gardens" on Tuesday, May 3rd. The presenter was Matt Brauer who is the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Specialist) for Sheboygan County and works with the Planning and Conservation Department of Sheboygan County. Matt is committed to educating people (in the county) about invasive pests, plants and weeds that are threatening Wisconsin. His contact information is at the end of the article.



Matt began his presentation with, "Not all non-natives are invasive BUT all invasives are non-native!"

Non-natives are categorized as anything that did not originate in an area. Invasives are non-native organisms that negatively impact communities. Both

non-natives and invasives originally came to the area by the first settlers, are still being transported to the area today, and continue to affect our ecosystem. Several have established themselves into our ecosystem and become naturalized, which is not something we want.

Invasives in our gardens come in three forms: Pests, Plants and Weeds. Matt touched on each of these for us to watch for and control. We could see them in our yard or in our neighbors'. If we see them in our neighbors' yards, we need to make them aware of the invasives so they can also work to control them before they take over. It is easier to control/eradicate a small patch rather than let it go until it turns into mass plantings.

PESTS: Pests usually cause direct harm to plants. They often come into the country as hitchhikers on people, plants and even cargo ships. Matt shared information about three pests that the state is monitoring. **Japanese Beetles** are highly destructive insects that favor some plants over others. By planting the non-favored

Aliens In Our Gardens

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plants in your yard, you will limit the attraction of Japanese beetles in your garden. He did not recommend using traps, because they will attract more to your yard. In turn, the beetles will lay their eggs in your lawn and their larvae will eat the roots of your grass. You can pick them off your plants, spray with chemicals or use biological methods to control. Milky Spore fungus and grub nematodes are two suggested methods of biological control. **Jumping worms** are currently in the lower part of the state and slowly moving northward with climate change. They severely impact the soil and currently there is no effective method of control for them. If you are unsure of what they look like, there is a video on the Wisconsin DNR website that shows you what they look like and how different they act from worms. See the link below. **The Spotted Lanternfly** is currently in Illinois as well as eleven east coast states. It feeds on tree sap, with the Tree of Heaven being its favorite. Limiting its hosts and planting milkweed (which is toxic to them) are current methods of control or prevention.

PLANTS: Matt touched on some of the more common invasive plants in our area. At one time, nurseries may have sold them and are often in suburban landscapes. One of the plants in this category is the **Japanese Barberry**, known for its reddish leaves, sold as an ornamental shrub. It spreads with runners and grows into impassable thickets and promotes ticks. **Yellow Flag Iris**, planted to prevent erosion, spreads easily, and alters hydrology by trapping sediment. All parts of this plant are poisonous. The best way to control it is by digging out the rhizomes to prevent spreading. **Moneywort**, a low creeping vine, is known by several names: Creeping jenny, running jenny, running joan, wandering jenny, wandering sailor, goldilocks, creeping yellow loosestrife. It chokes out the ground layer of your landscape and was as a creeper in hanging baskets. **Ditch Lilies** are spread by tubers and rhizomes. Its blooms only last a day, and it is not a true lily. In addition, once established it is hard to remove; just a small piece of tuber left behind can regenerate. Solarization and digging are the best control methods. **Burning Bush, aka Winged Burning Bush**, is spread vegetatively or by seed and is widely available at nurseries. This is one plant that Matt said, "DO NOT PLANT." The best control methods used are chemical and mechanical.

WEEDS: **Crown vetch**, a vigorous growing groundcover, which is usually planted to control erosion. It fixes the nitrogen levels in the soil, alters fires, and can choke out streams. Control methods are physical removal and chemical application annually. **Garlic Mustard**, an herbaceous biennial, which likes growing in disturbed areas as lawns, flowerbeds, and high-quality upland areas. It's first year growth is a basal rosette like plant, sometimes confused with violets or creeping Charlie. The second-year plant has flowering stems, which look like toothworts or sweet cicely. New data is showing that this plant may be aggressive on itself and eventually choke itself out, but for now, try to keep pulling these plants. **Bishop's Weed** is sold in nurseries as a ground cover. It is known by many names: Goutwort, snow-on-the-mountain, Herb-Gerard, wild/English masterwort, ax-ash weed, aise-weed, dwarf weed, bishop's weed, white-ash-herb, garden-plague, dog-elder, ground-elder, jack jump-about. It is difficult to control but digging, solarization and chemical application are the best methods to remove it. **Japanese Knotweed**, an ornamental bamboo style plant, originally used to help with erosion. There are three kinds, Giant, Bohemian and Hybrid; they are all invasive. Found in mainland US, Canada, and Alaska.

What can you do?

- Stay Informed! It starts with you! Educate your neighbors
- Change your planting practices - native wildflower gardens, butterfly/pollinator gardens, rain gardens, etc.
- Avoid risky plantings – "If you don't know, don't grow!"
- Learn your local invasives - Report new populations/occurrences - In the wild or at a nursery
- WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
- Be proactive!

Matt recommends that your first call should be to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine what your plants are and what the next steps should be. Matt will get involved, if needed, after that point. The DNR has a listing called the NR40 Invasive Species List, which lists only plants. It has a listing of prohibited and restrictive plants for Wisconsin. It is a great reference if you are unsure of plants that might be invasive. Links are below.

Aliens In Our Gardens

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As Master Gardeners, it is important for us to keep informed on matters that affect our state, communities, and yards. We, the Sheboygan County Master Gardeners, try to bring speakers in to enhance our knowledge on issues and new ideas concerning horticulture. Please try to attend these presentations and share this information with others. We thank Matt for sharing this valuable information with members of our group.

Jumping Worms <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/jumpingWorm.html>

DNR Invasives <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives>

DNR NR 40 List <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/NR40plantlist.pdf>

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/speciesNR40list.asp?filterBy=Category&filterVal=Plants&addFilter=Classification>

The invasive species rule creates a comprehensive, science-based system with criteria to classify invasive species into two categories: "prohibited" and "restricted." With certain exceptions, the transport, possession, transfer, and introduction of prohibited species is banned. Restricted species are also subject to a ban on transport, transfer, and introduction, but possession is allowed, except for fish and crayfish. The department may issue permits for research or public display of any listed invasive species.

Matt Brauer – Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department
AIS Specialist – Aquatic Invasive Species
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Upcoming Events & Education

JUNE

Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinator Week – Brown County

Monday, June 20 – Sunday June 26, 2022

If you're in the mood for a road trip, check out the local activities in Brown County to support Wisconsin Celebrates Pollinator Week. This event is FREE and fun for children, teens, adults, and seniors.

No Registration needed. Click [here](#) to find out more information about daily activities happening around Brown County.

FREE Webinars Presented by Melinda Myers

JUNE

Creating a Pollinator Paradise with Melinda Myers

June 1, 2022

FREE WEBINAR

6:30 p.m.

Whether planting a garden, enjoying the beauty of your landscape, or sitting down to a delicious meal, you have bees, butterflies, and other pollinators to thank. These essential members of our ecosystem are responsible for much of the food and beauty we enjoy each day. Create the right habitat and you can fill your landscape with bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators. We'll discuss plant selection, design strategies and plant care to help attract and support pollinators. Soon you'll be enjoying their beauty and increased productivity in your garden!

This webinar is free, but registration is required.

Register at: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XNJhCW4zT4yCS3rtJCCtow

Upcoming Events & Education

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Supporting Native Bees

June 15, 2022

7:00 p.m.

The plight of the honeybee has been in the news for years, but our native bees are just as important for the pollination of many of the flowers and foods we eat. There are nearly 20,000 known bee species in the world – 4,000 of them are native to the United States and five hundred have been identified in Wisconsin. Learn more about these important pollinators and how to attract and support them in your gardens. This webinar is free, but registration is required.

Register at: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qZaBSGviTBmaCyFojC5cxQ

Maintaining Your Landscape with Pollinators in Mind

June 22, 2022

6:30 p.m.

You can have a landscape that you and pollinators enjoy. By making a few changes to the way we maintain our plants and manage insect pests and diseases we can help create a safe environment for pollinators. We'll cover pollinator-friendly care to keep your landscape healthy and looking its best throughout the year. Then we'll explore ways to manage the space without harmful chemicals to keep plants and visiting pollinators healthy.

This Webinar is free, but registration is required.

Register at: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FlidbJekQ0mVKE2u59I7HA

WIGMA Continuing Education Series

The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) knows the importance of our role to support our members. WIGMA CEC has planned a series of guest lectures in the Summer and Fall of 2022. All lectures will be on Zoom and free of charge (your \$5.00 dues support these lectures).

JULY

Fall Gardening Season

July 25th at 7:00PM

Presented by Meg McAndrews Cowden, author of [Plant Grow Harvest Repeat](#).

You will be able to extend your vegetable gardening into the late fall with planning and planting your garden in summer. Meg will also talk about how to succession plant your perennial flower beds to maximize your food production. Meg Cowden resides in the western Twin Cities and thrives on living creatively. With a formal background in natural resource management, her current wheelhouse includes stay-at-home mother, volunteer, writer, photographer, and her 'day job' as fulltime resident gardener. She shares her passion for growing food, educating, and inspiring through her photography and writing via her blog Seed to Fork, her new book, on social media @seedtofork, and through her new gardening club, The Modern Garden Guild. For Meg and her family, the act of gardening itself combines art and science, inviting the gardener to continually reflect and assess their approach and adjust course to achieve optimal results. It's both the ultimate practical and delicious act of mindfulness. Meg relishes the challenge of gardening year after year in such a cold climate and is never short on growing challenges and new ideas. With each passing season, new ideas are field tested and refined. For Meg, the greatest gift is received among her garden beds, for gardening bountifully showers the attentive observer with life lessons - and the lessons are both profound and innumerable.

SEPTEMBER

Underutilized Bulbs for the Fall

September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Zannah Crowe

Zannah will look to new and underutilized bulbs to give you the WOW factor. She will show you how to interplant bulbs with perennials to give your spring garden a new look. Zannah is the Horticulturist at Heyden's Garden Center, formally Johnson Gardening Center, in Cedarburg Wisconsin.

Watch your email for the links to sign up for these lectures.

Master Gardener Volunteer Board Members Needed!

Submitted by Marty Steinbruecker

Are you interested in working as a member of a team to help make decisions for our local organization?

Do you enjoy learning about the MGV organization?
Do you have ideas for our local organization?

We have two members on the board whose terms expire in fall. Since both have been on the board for two terms (6 years total), they can no longer remain on the board per our by-laws.

Time Commitment: Regular monthly meetings August to March. We meet if we have agenda items. Typically, we do not meet in June or July.

Please consider this volunteer opportunity. The hours you spend at meetings will count toward your twenty-five required volunteer hours.

Let any of the current board members know if you are interested or would like more information.



2022 Garden Walk - Volunteers Needed

The 25th annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk is fast approaching!

Here are the details:

Date: Saturday July 9

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers can choose to work for a half or full day

Volunteers are needed to assist on the day of the walk to sell and stamp tickets at the various sites and to be present at the sites to answer questions visitors' questions.

The morning shift would begin at 8:30 -12:30 and the afternoon shift is 12:00 – 4:00.

Volunteers may participate in the “preview” day, free of charge, on Thursday July 7, from 9:00 a.m.-Noon.

If you would like to volunteer for this year's Garden Walk, please contact:

Doris Weber at (920) 467-3266

doris@johnngweber.com or, Sally Neuhaus at (920) 838-3014 sallyneuhaus@gmail.com

2022 Garden Walk Locations

Elkhart Lake

Bieck Gardens (Gary & Nancy Bieck),
9080 Cty. Rd J

Bethel Gardens (Richard & Karen Merlau),
16428 Bethel Rd.

Two Fish Gallery (Patrick & Karen Robison),
244 E Rhine St.

Plymouth

A Field Stone Garden, (James & Debbie Sheets),
W7342 Cty. Rd Z.

A Patchwork of Garden, (Thomas and Sue Droll)
W5616 Sumac Rd

Intergenerational Garden,
1500 Douglas Dr.

Yesteryear's Sentimental Journey, (Katie Herman)
501 Collins St

Tidbits from my Reading

By Sue Mathews

A **ttracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control, Second Edition, 2022**, by Jessica Walliser.

This award-winning book provides “a valuable and science-backed plan for bringing balance to the garden...Learn how to create a healthy, balanced, and diverse garden capable of supporting a hard-working crew of beneficial pest-eating insects and eliminate the need for synthetic chemical pesticides.”

Chapters cover

- where and how plants and insects intersect
- plant profiles of the best plants for beneficials
- designing your garden for the bugs
- plant partnerships to battle pests
- beneficial bug profiles
- and much more

In this article I am going to introduce you to some of the amazing bug predators and parasitoids that you can find in your garden...if you just pay attention.

There are several broad groups to be on the lookout for...true bugs, true flies, predatory beetles, parasitic wasps, dragon- and damselflies, lacewings, mantids and arachnids.

Assassin bugs are the ninjas of the insect world. Their weapon of choice is a sharp, curved, daggeresque mouthpart. They ambush and capture prey, injecting a lethal toxin which kills in minutes and liquifies the victim's insides. This enables the assassin bug to slurp up their dinner leaving only the exoskeleton behind. There are more than one hundred American species. Beware...they bite if disturbed.

Syrphid flies, hoverflies, flower flies are significant pollinators often found hovering around flowers on bright sunny days while consuming pollen, nectar, and honeydew. They are usually brightly colored and many mimic bees with markings of black and yellow or white. While the adults feed on flower parts, some larvae (aka maggots) are busy devouring various soft-bodied insects, including aphids, thrips, leafhoppers, scales, caterpillars and more. Others may eat plant tissue, decaying matter, dead organisms, sewage, and other waste.

Predatory beetles include everybody's favorite: the ladybug. But did you know that fireflies are included in this family. We all recognize them when we see them flitting around the yard using their bioluminescent abdomens to attract mates. Not all species glow as adults, but they all do as larvae. Known as glowworms the larvae emit a steady, dull glow from their abdomens. Adult fireflies eat mostly pollen and nectar (or nothing at all). Larval fireflies live under or on the ground and are predatorial generalists...eating slugs, worms, caterpillars, snails, and other insect larvae.

Parasitic wasps are a complex and diverse group of insects. One family, the braconid wasps, include 1700+ species in North America. They are small averaging less than ½ inch in length. The *Cotesia* species attack caterpillars and we can often see their rice like, white cocoons clinging to tomato and tobacco hornworms. Other species parasitize cabbage worms, cutworms, corn earworms, gypsy moths, and others by laying their eggs inside the caterpillar. The wasps insert the eggs into their prey. When the eggs hatch in two days they begin eating their hosts, eventually chewing small holes in the skin, spinning external cocoons, and finally flying away as adult wasps. Note: some parasitic wasps are predators of native Wisconsin mason and leafcutter bees.

Dragonflies and damselflies are always a treat to see in a garden. Dragonflies are among the fastest fliers in the insect world. Both are stealth predators, as adults and nymphs. They are generalists feeding on mosquitos, flies, bees, ants, moths, wasps, and anything they can grab in midflight. They usually found near water as they spend their gilled larval stage on the bottom of ponds, lakes, and streams eating tadpoles, snails, mosquito larva and other aquatics.

Lacewings are another complicated group of insects with thousands of North American species. Members of the dusty wing family are a tiny 1/8 of an inch long chowing down on aphids, scales, mites, and other very small insects.

Tidbits from my Reading

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Praying mantids are a fascinating group related to grasshoppers, katydids, walking sticks, and the like. There are twenty varied species in North America: three introduced, the rest native. The most common are introduced species. Mantids are patient ambush predators spending 5% of their time eating and the rest of the time sitting in wait. They are generalists savoring anything they can catch including moths, crickets, grasshoppers, flies, beetles, bees, and caterpillars. Larger species have been known to devour frogs, lizards, and small birds. Note: The Carolina mantid, a North American native, and Wisconsin.

Arachnids are not insects at all, having eight legs, two body segments instead of three, and no wings or antennae. Some *predatory mites* are highly specialized feeding on only one type of pest mite. They are very efficient predators and quickly reduce pest mite numbers. However, once the prey population declines, so does the predatory mite. Other mites have a wider diet, preying on other pests if their preferred meal is not available, and their populations are more stable.

These are just a very few of the predators and parasitoids that found in North America. Recognizing them and the evidence of their presence will help you appreciate the work they do in your garden.

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This is such a fun and fascinating book that will give you some ideas to make your garden a better home for all these and other voracious, beneficial predators bugs.

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You might also be interested in [*Natural Enemies \(Wisconsin Vegetable Entomology\)*](#) a brief publication featuring Wisconsin beneficial insects.



Assassin Bug on
Potato Beetle



Firefly Larva



Syrphid Fly Larvae



Predatory Cotesia Wasp



Dustywing



Dragonfly



Carolina Mantid



Arachnid predatory mite-spidex



Wisconsin Celebrates
POLLINATOR WEEK
 June 20-26, 2022

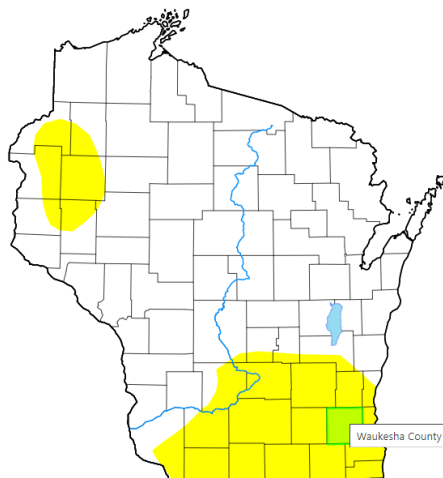
Drought Monitor

As summer heats up, it is important to keep up to date on the Wisconsin Drought Monitor.

To check the moisture conditions in our part of the state go to the US Drought Monitor website, [Wisconsin | U.S. Drought Monitor \(unl.edu\)](https://www.drought.gov/monitor/wisconsin)

Wisconsin

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Map released: Thurs. June 2, 2022

Data valid: May 31, 2022 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

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The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.