

Barron County
Over the Garden Gate

Bluff Country
St. Croix Valley

Chippewa Valley
West Central

Coulee Region

August, 2003

West District News

News from the State

Summary of the WIMGA Board Meeting July 10, 2003 – Wisline

The Board conducted the following business at the July meeting:

- 1) Susan Mahr didn't have much of a **Coordinator's Update**. All she mentioned was that the newsletter has been delayed at the printer (she just got the proof today after 2 weeks), so please be patient. The first newsletters should start showing up in mailboxes in a week or so, barring other complications.
- 2) There was a short discussion about the great International MG Conference from Susan, John Hahn and others. The feature article of the July 2003 WIMGA newsletter is on the conference, and there is also an expanded version of that with photos on the MG website (go to 'State Association', 'Conferences', 'International MG Conference').
- 3) The final 2003 **WIMGA Conference** should be finalized by the next Board meeting.
- 4) Rolf has not had time to devote to contacting applicants for the **2005 WIMGA Conference**, but will do that immediately.
- 5) The Madison Area MGs (MAMGA) wants to know if WIMGA has Directors & Officers liability insurance and/or **event insurance** (no, they do not for either). The Board doesn't think there is much risk for Directors, so they have never pursued this (and don't know of any local groups that have it). Event liability policies are better taken out by local groups for specific events or an annual umbrella policy. Most MGAs have gotten policies from Capitol Indemnities in Madison. With prices based on number of events, number of members, amount of coverage and location. MAMGA will share any good deals they find as they go through the quote process.
- 6) There still seems to be some confusion about deadlines for paying dues. That has never changed and is still January 31st. Information needs to be sent out to all groups on this – as well as other deadlines throughout the year. Susan will develop something on this for the next meeting.

News from the Local District Organizations

Barron County: Potluck and tour of Jill Keefer's gardens, 6 pm. Demonstration by Kay Margraf

Bluff Country: Meander through two acres of meadow/prairie with paths cut throughout mother-nature. Prairie specimens include, Indian Grass, Tall Blue Stem, Blazing Star, Black-eyed Susans, Monarda, and Prairie Sage. Jane's two acre orchard includes - cherries, apples, plums, pears, grapes, and blueberries. Nearer to the house are a raspberry patch, and vegetable garden, and a small herb garden which the bunnies love.

La Crosse County Fair - Master Gardeners are planning to create a Butterfly Garden Micro-Climate at the La Crosse County Fair. Mg's will be on hand to answer horticulture questions. Go to the Bluff Country Web page and view photos of our Butterfly Habitat. Also available are photos of the June and July Garden Tours.

Chippewa Valley: We will be holding our annual potluck at Flag Hill in Irvine Park. Attendees are asked to bring their own meat for grilling and a dish to pass.

St Croix Valley: We are also preparing for the St Croix and Pierce Co fairs. The planned meeting at Wayne Peterson's farm will be rescheduled for August.

Websites

<http://www.northerngardening.com/>

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

*For those presentation held at Boerner Botanical Gardens, Green Bay Botanical Gardens, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, check the end of the calendar for contact information.

Aug 2, 2003
Designing Prairie Sites Ecologically
[MN Landscape Arboretum](#),
Chanhassen, MN

Learn what plants are appropriate for prairie sites and which ones to avoid in this workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \$45 (\$35 members); lunch on your own. For more information or to register contact the [Education Department](#)

Aug 3, 2003
Pruning Shrubs
[MN Landscape Arboretum](#),
Chanhassen, MN

Gain understanding the "what, when, why, and how" of shrub pruning in this class from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. \$30 (\$20 members). For more information or to register contact the [Education Department](#),

Aug 6, 2003
Garden Treasures
[Boerner Botanical Gardens](#), Hales
Corners (Milwaukee), WI

Learn about the Shrub Mall's pastel and jewel-tone theme, the Rock Garden's woodland plants, and creative plant combinations. Free. Meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Education and Visitor Center Atrium – rain or shine! Contact Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Aug 7, 2003
2003 Trial Garden & Plant Health
Field Day
[Boerner Botanical Gardens](#), Hales
Corners (Milwaukee), WI

View and learn about new and upcoming plant cultivars and current cultural and plant health practices. MGs \$35 (\$40 reg) by July 31. For more information or to register

contact Mary Chilson, UW-Extension
Waukesha Co., 1320 Pewaukee Dr. Rm. G-
22, Waukesha, WI 53188 at (262) 548-7775.

Aug 9, 2003

Chile Pepper Multi-Cultural Festival
**[Green Bay Botanical Garden](#), Green
Bay, WI**

A celebration of the chile pepper and the many wonderful cultures that use it in their cuisine from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Music, dance, art, and food. \$5 (\$3 members), children \$3 (\$1). For more information, contact the [Green Bay Botanical Garden](#).

Aug 10, 2003

Easy Care Roses
**[Boerner Botanical Gardens](#), Hales
Corners (Milwaukee), WI**

Boerner Horticulturist, Judy Krystowiak, will suggest varieties of landscape roses that do well in our climate and are easy to care for. Free, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Meet in the Education and Visitor Center Atrium – rain or shine! For more information contact Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Aug 11, 2003

**Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Twilight
Tour**
**[Hancock Ag Research Station](#),
Hancock, WI**

Hosted in the Albert Horticultural Garden from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tour the station and research plots, and see more than 600 varieties of perennials, herbs, prairie plants, shade plants, grapes and heirloom varieties. For more information contact the [Hancock Ag Research Station](#), N3909 County Hwy V, Hancock, WI 54943-7547 at (715) 249-5961 or fax (715) 249-5850.

Aug 14, 2003

Growing Canna Lilies in Wisconsin
Janesville, WI

This program is being presented by Rotary Gardens / Rock County UW-Extension from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. \$15 (\$10 members). For more information contact [Mike Maddox](#), Horticulture Educator Rotary Gardens / Rock County UW-Extension, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI 53545 at (608) 752-3885.

Aug 15, 2003

Plants of the Year
**[Boerner Botanical Gardens](#), Hales
Corners (Milwaukee), WI**

Enjoy Boerner Botanical Gardens in full bloom and meet the 2003 Plants of the Year! Sarah Ehrhardt, horticulturist / landscape designer of Lied's Landscape and Design, will lead a walk through the gardens and share her knowledge and expertise, while musicians softly play in the background. Free, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information contact Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Aug 15, 2003

**The Edible Landscape: Combining
Vegetables with Flowers**
**[MN Landscape Arboretum](#),
Chanhassen, MN**

Learn how to use common and uncommon vegetables with flowering annuals and perennials to create interesting combinations. Class from 10:00 a.m. to noon includes a visit to the gardens to see examples of design elements. \$30 (\$20 members). For more information or to register contact the [Education Department](#),

Aug 16, 2003

West Madison Horticulture Field Day
**[West Madison Ag Research Station](#),
Verona, WI**

Tours, taste-testing and demonstrations on a variety of topics from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information contact Asst. Superintendent [Judy Reith-Rozelle](#), 8502 Mineral Point Rd., Verona, WI 53593-9689 at (608) 262-2257 or fax (608) 829-3074.

Aug 16, 2003

Homeowners Turf Day
**[O.J. Noer Research Station](#), Verona,
WI**

View ornamental grass gardens, learn about turf management from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information the [O.J. Noer Station](#), 3101 County Hwy M., Verona, WI 53593-9537 at (608) 845-6536 or fax (608) 845-8162.

Aug 16, 2003

Hostas & Companion Plants
[MN Landscape Arboretum,](#)
Chanhassen, MN

Learn how to grow, propagate, and select hostas for effective combinations with other shade-loving plants. Class from 10:00 a.m. to noon includes a visit to the Hosta Glade. \$30 (\$20 members). For more information or to register contact the [Education Department](#),

Aug 16, 2003

Growing Roses in Minnesota
[MN Landscape Arboretum,](#)
Chanhassen, MN

Discover how easy it is to grow both tender and hardy roses in our cold climate. Class from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. covers general rose care, selection of cultivars, insects and diseases, winterizing, safe uses of pesticides and herbicides, and a trip to the Arboretum's Wilson Rose Garden if time permits. \$30 (\$20 members). For more information or to register contact the [Education Department](#),

Aug 17, 2003

Espalier: The Art of Shaping Trees
[MN Landscape Arboretum,](#)
Chanhassen, MN

Espalier is the technique of shaping trees in a two-dimensional form. The espalier method makes it possible to grow trees, especially fruit trees, in limited space. Learn how to properly shape a tree into an espalier form. Class from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. includes a visit to the gardens to see different espaliered trees. \$35 (\$25 members). For more information or to register contact the [Education Department](#),

Aug 20, 2003

Choosing Trees and Shrubs
[Boerner Botanical Gardens,](#)
Hales Corners (Milwaukee), WI

Discover the wide choice of trees that will enhance your home landscape. Explore which ones do best in different sites and which complement your home in every season. Free, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meet in the Education and Visitor Center Atrium – rain or shine! For more information contact Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Aug 21, 2003

Perennials Through the Seasons
[MN Landscape Arboretum,](#)
Chanhassen, MN

The perennial garden is like an orchestra where different sections play their part at different times. The lecture from 10:00 a.m. to noon will guide you through the seasons with a sampling of perennials that do well in Minnesota gardens. \$30 (\$20 members). For more information or to register contact the [Education Department](#)

Aug 24, 2003

Growing Orchids
[MN Landscape Arboretum,](#)
Chanhassen, MN

Exotic-looking orchids are much easier to grow than you think. Learn which orchids are adapted for home culture and do well in the Minnesota home from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Topics include identification, care, repotting, insects, diseases, and a review of major species. Participants will receive an orchid plant to start their own collection. \$35 (\$25 members) and includes an orchid plant and handouts. For more information or to register contact the [Education Department](#)

Aug 27, 2003

Fall Garden Twilight Tour
[Ashland Ag Research Station,](#)
Ashland, WI

Begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact the Ashland Agricultural Research Station, 68760 State Farm Road, Ashland, WI 54806-9338 at (715) 682-7268 or fax (715) 682-7269

Aug 27, 2003

The Transitional Garden - Plants for Late Summer/Fall Color
[Boerner Botanical Gardens,](#)
Hales Corners (Milwaukee), WI

As summer winds down, you can still enjoy the beauty of the garden well into fall. Matt Singer of Four Season Landscapes LLC will introduce you to a variety of plants that will reward you with wonderful texture and colorful blooms during this transitional time. Free, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meet in the Education and Visitor Center Atrium – rain or shine! For more information contact Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Aug 28, 2003

**Growing Sunflowers in Wisconsin
Janesville, WI**

This program is being presented by Rotary Gardens / Rock County UW-Extension from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. \$15 (\$10 members). For more information contact [Mike Maddox](#), Horticulture Educator Rotary Gardens / Rock County UW-Extension, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI 53545 at (608) 752-3885.

Aug 28, 2003

**Twilight Garden Tour
[Spooner Ag Research Station](#),
Spooner, WI**

Begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801 at (715) 635-3735 or Fax (715) 635-6741.

Aug 29, 2003 (12:00 noon)

**Collecting and Saving Seeds
Brown Bag Program** (contact your local UW County Extension Office for

access)

Collecting seeds from plants to plant next season may seem like a good way to grow particular types of native and cultivated plants, but you may be in for a surprise. Some seeds can be saved from year to year with good results, while others may require special treatment before planting. Some seeds should be collected in the fall, others may ripen early in the season. Join us to review the cultural management requirements and for ideas to enhance the success of collecting and management and growing plants from seeds.

Aug 31, 2003 (5:30 p.m.)

The Wisconsin Gardener: "Weep No More"

WI Public Television

This program will include a look at weeping trees such as larch, beech and pine. We'll also see examples of trees with colorful foliage and bark. The program also visits a garden designed for the elderly and teaches us about diseases and insects that harm birch trees and how to avoid them.

**For those presentations held at Boerner Botanical Gardens, Green Bay Botanical Garden, Olbrich Botanical Gardens and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, check below for contact information.*

Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Dr., Hales Corners, WI 53130 at (414) 525-5600.

[Green Bay Botanical Garden](#), **Green Bay, WI** For more information contact The GBBG, 2600 Larsen Rd., P.O. Box 12644, Green Bay, WI 54307-2644 at (920) 490-9457.

[Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#), **Madison, WI** For more information, or to register, contact [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#), 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

[MN Landscape Arboretum](#), **Chanhassen, MN** For more information or to register contact [Education Department](#), Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, P.O. Box 39, Chanhassen, MN 55317-0039 at (952) 443-1422.

MG Volunteer and Continuing Education Hours

This is just a friendly reminder to everyone:

- Time sheets are due November 1.
- Dues need to be in by January 31 and sent to the WIMGA State Treasurer, Byron Hacker.
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REGIONAL HORT REPORT

By Jon Behling, St. Croix/Pierce Co. Extension

The problems associated with the openness of the previous winter continue to nag us through the summer season! This spring many Northwest Wisconsin gardeners waited patiently for their tulip and daffodil bulbs, as well as waiting for their perennials to emerge. In cases where the gardener mulched heavily and the crowns of the perennials were protected from the drying winds, we saw a slow, but fairly good recovery of the plant material. In other cases, gardeners were surprised to lose most of their perennials that were rated zone 4 and in some cases a significant number of zone 3 plants. As the growing season progressed more problems surfaced, especially noticeable on many fruit trees and related deciduous species. Gardeners were happy to see their crabapples and assorted fruit trees bud and then leaf out. Many of these trees appeared content until we had our first bout of hot-drier weather in northern Wisconsin.

In mid-June a significant number of calls came into the extension offices relating to premature leaf drop on crabapples and some related species. This phenomenon appears to have occurred due to the root dieback during the winter months. In early spring these larger shrubs and trees had a significant amount of carbohydrate reserve within their shoots to get them through the early spring season. As soon as the plants leafed out, they were unable to maintain growth due to the increased transpirational and carbohydrate requirements placed upon them....in other words, the plants root systems had failed to meet not only their water but also nutritional requirements.

Teryl Roper, the fruit extension specialist at the University of Wisconsin, has suggested that in an "average" winter with some snow cover that soil temperatures remain in the mid to high 20 degree Fahrenheit range. This previous winter, data from Kevin Schussow at the Spooner experiment station showed that soil temperatures at 3-4 inches below the soil surface may have dipped to as low as 18-22 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition to the colder than normal soil temperature, we experienced lower than normal precipitation amounts for late fall and early winter. This more than likely increased the environmental stress to the root systems of most plants.

We can't blame all of the leaf drop problems on the damage to the root systems. This spring we also experienced conditions that lead to a higher than average infection rate for apple scab. Many of the crabapple trees received a double blow, not only from possible root damage, but from leaf and shoot pathogens, namely apple scab. Some of these trees may be able to recover if the gardener continues to water through any dry periods we may experience this summer or fall, but from what I have seen in Western Wisconsin, we more than likely will experience significant shoot dieback.

With the higher summer temperatures, we are experiencing the usual increase in insect pests in the yard and garden. We need to remember to do our insect scouting a couple of times a week so that we can control the populations at an

early stage, before they inflict too much damage. In the garden we should be finishing up our plantings of Fall greens from seed, brassica transplants and Fall peas. Be aware of the flea beetle

damage to many of the young brassicas and use your floating row covers. You will be amazed how just a little more labor will improve the quality and quantity of your harvest!

INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE:

Photos by Marilyn Rebarchek, Bluff Country Master Gardeners



"purple people" bridge.

For pedestrians only. Master gardeners who arrived a day early took time out from the conference to plant flowers on the famous purple people bridge.



Everyone who attended the IMGCC took home one of five hybrid daylilies specifically created for this conference. Ted Blaney, (MG) phoned MG coordinator, Bobbi Strangfeid in July 2001, asking if the MG's could use 2000 of his hybrid daylilies as he needed to thin them out of his beds. Volunteers dug them and sold them as a fundraiser for the upcoming 2003 conference. When Ted offered to donate some to the IMGCC another volunteer popped up offering to plant them in her yard and lovingly care for them till they were ready for their new homes.

The Cincinnati Horticulture Society commissioned an artist to design giant flower pots (6' tall) for the City of Cincinnati. They were on loan for display at the IMGCC (right and below).



Susan Mahr (Wisconsin Master Gardener Program Coordinator) and Marilyn Rebarck (Bluff Country Master Gardeners) at the International Master Gardener Conference.



Over 950 MGs assembled in the Cincinnati, OH/Northern Kentucky area June 18-21, 2003 for the 2003 IMG Conference. This great conference offered a multitude of opportunities to interact with other MGs and attend numerous horticultural seminars, workshops, field trips and special events.

The next IMG conference will be June 24-27, 2005 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada to celebrate **100 Years of Gardening on the Canadian Prairies**. The organizing committee is working hard on the program to provide internationally recognized conference speakers, concurrent educational sessions and hands-on gardening workshops. There will also be an optional pre-conference tour of the Northern Boreal Forest and Prince Albert National Park and a post-conference tour of the Canadian Rockies via Calgary, Banff, Jasper and Edmonton.

For more information on the International Master Gardeners Conference, go to <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/> . Click on "State Association," "MGs Conferences," and then "International MG Conference." There will also be information in

the upcoming WIMGA newsletter.