



University of Wisconsin-Extension

Chippewa County
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July is a month for traditions. The ones that immediately come to mind include Independence Day, family reunions, summer road trips and of course, the County Fair.

Our Northern Wisconsin State Fair is one of the best fairs in the state. In it we have an opportunity to meet with friends and family to enjoy music, rides, games; artistic, educational and commercial exhibits, and delicious deep-fried fair food. This is the time when our UW-Extension family shows off their skills in raising animals, creating arts and handicrafts, growing vegetables and flowers, brewing beer, producing honey, making wine; and baking, canning, and pickling delicious homemade foods.

We MGs have an opportunity this year to add to the festivities and fun through our Butterfly Buddies activity and booth in the Science and Technology Building. We will present an activity for children Wednesday through Friday at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 each day. Contact Mary Jo Fleming if you would like to help share the wonderful world of pollinators message to eager young fair-goers on one of those days.

One of our MGs, Jayne Bielecki had a beautifully written article in the Chippewa Herald last month about another summer tradition. (You can read the article in this newsletter or online [here](#)). She has done a lovely job of putting into words the feelings that many of us have as we tend family heritage plants in our gardens, think about where they came from, and about the emotional connections we have to them. In my garden for example, I have a peony that represents my Hoosier roots (state flower of Indiana). More specifically it is pink (my mother's favorite) and it came from a beloved neighbor across the street, Millie, who became like family to us over the years before she passed away. There are numerous other plants that have come from family, friends, or neighbors that make me think of them each time I weed around, divide, or cut their blooms for a bouquet to bring into the house.

Jayne encourages us to take the idea of creating a legacy garden to the next level by thinking about these questions:

Do you want to receive your favorite plants as gifts from family and friends? Do you want to purchase family members' favorite plants for your garden? Do you want family members to donate plants from their gardens? Do you want to use the garden to mark significant life events like a birth, wedding anniversary, graduation, retirement or death?

Above all, July is the month to enjoy the tradition of gardening in whatever way makes you happy. I can hardly wait for the first meal of homegrown green beans and a really, truly, ripe, red tomato and mayo sandwich!

See you at the Fair!

Laura Kasdorf, CVMGA Co-President



Calendar of Events 2016

July

13-17 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Fairgrounds, Chippewa Falls

13-15 Butterfly Buddies Activity, Fairgrounds - Science and Technology Building,
Chippewa Falls

August

8 CVMGA Meeting, Growing Hops, at the home of Jerry Clark

September

12 CVMGA Meeting, Straw Bale Gardening, Joy Lancour, location TBD.



Visit us on Facebook. Search for Chippewa Valley Master
Gardeners Association

CHIPPEWA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER INFORMATION

2016 BOARD of DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents: *Sharon Bergstad (2016)*
Laura Kasdorf (2017)
Secretary: *Sandy Kenner (2016)*
Treasurer: *Shirley Blizek (2017)*
Membership Director: *Mary Jo Fleming (2017)*
Directors at Large: *Sue Crisp (2016)*
Steve Hesselberg (2016)
Joy Lancour (2016)
Sue Larson (2016)
Elaine Olsen (2016)

Elections are held each November.

CVMGA Committees

Pollinator Garden: *Mary Jo Fleming*
bingnjo@charter.net
Think Spring Seminar: *Laura Kasdorf*
wolterkasdorf@sbcglobal.net
(715-726-1963)
Exhibits/Activities: *Mary Jo Fleming*
Linda Stockinger
ldstocking@aol.com
Programming: *Laura Kasdorf*
Bluebird Trail: *Mary Jo Fleming*

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the Master Gardener Newsletter is due by the 15th of the month, for the next month's newsletter.

UW-Extension Office Contacts, 715-726-7950

Jerry Clark, Crops & Soils Agent, jerome.clark@ces.uwex.edu
Heather Lubs, Administrative Assistant III, hubs@co.chippewa.wi.us

CVMGA Committees

Master Gardeners Association has a variety of committees our volunteers can participate in. Please see the descriptions below and contact the committee lead if you are interested in helping.

Pollinator Garden Committee: Help plant, label, and manage the native plant pollinator garden at Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds.

Think Spring Committee 2017: Help organize venue, speakers, and vendors for 2017.



Exhibits/Activities Committees: Keep our master gardener exhibits up to date and work on activities that we can use at venues such as fairs and other events where we are invited to display what we do.

Program Committee: Work with the board to set up programs and activities for CVMGA members.

Bluebird Committee: Organize a schedule for the nesting season and plan work parties to clean and repair boxes on the Old Abe Bluebird Trail.

Volunteer Opportunities

Articles for the Herald Telegram and the MG newsletter

If interested in writing articles for the Chippewa Herald Green Space column, please let me know. Articles are to be 600-700 words and written with a conversational tone. A photo or graphic and be included as well. Articles will be due on Friday of each week. If interested, please let me know and I will put a schedule together.

Use your creative writing skills to share your knowledge of gardening with the Chippewa Falls community and the Master Gardeners. Contact Jerry Clark at 715-726-7955 or by email at jerome.clark@ces.uwex.edu

Raising Chester & Volunteering at the Fair

Over the past several years Chippewa Valley Master Gardener volunteer Linda Stockinger has raised and released monarch butterflies in pollinator-friendly native plant gardens near her home. At this year's Northern Wisconsin State Fair, CVMGA is offering Linda's family-friendly 45 minute program about stages of monarchs, how to identify them in a garden, and her experiences raising the butterflies from eggs. Along with a PowerPoint and hands-on presentation, children will also have a craft project that includes decorating visors with butterfly stages. The program is being scheduled between Wed. and Friday of fair week. The fair will be held from Wednesday, July 13, through Sunday, July 17. We are requesting volunteers to man the booth, share information about pollinator and pollinator-friendly plants, and help kids with crafts and the corn hole game. Contact Mary Jo Fleming if you are interested in volunteer hours.

"Meet Me at the Fair"...Northern Wisconsin State Fair, July 13-17, Call for volunteers!

To help celebrate our new pollinator garden, Master Gardeners are going all out this year to focus on butterflies and other pollinators. Our exhibit will be set up in Building B (Science & Technology). On Wednesday-Friday at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30, we will be presenting "Butterfly Buddies" with Linda Stockinger's PowerPoint "Raising Chester" followed by a craft project appropriate for ages 5-12. Kids will be decorating foam visors with vinyl butterfly stickers in species of their choice and using markers to color the caterpillars constructed of cording and bobby pins. We will also have the corn hole game from past years. The building should be drawing lots of families since on alternate half hours from our program will be a Lego Contest for different age groups.

On Saturday and Sunday, we have visors and stick-on butterflies for children who visit the pollinator garden and bring back the name of a native butterfly plant. They will be labeled. **We need volunteers from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. each week day and from opening until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Sunday to take down the booth. If anyone wants an evening shift, let me know. Would anyone like to put up our cedar pollinator garden sign? We have some mulch to spread on Wednesday and Thursday. Contact Mary Jo Fleming 715-723-0822 or bingnjo@charter.net.**

Starting a family heritage garden

By Jayne Bielecki for The Herald June 1, 2016

As I was weeding my gardens, I realized I was spending a significant amount of time reminiscing about the age of the plants and who had given them to me.

The home and gardens I care for have been in the family for 40 years. Many of the gardens had been started by my grandparents and my mother.

Since I began caring for the property seven years ago, I received more plants from my mother and sister. I planted a tree a friend gave me and took a cutting from my Great-Aunt's willow trees after her death.

I remembered how much my siblings and I loved running around in them as children. I cherish that little tree just like I still cherish my Great-Aunt. So many wonderful memories, so much family history archived in my garden!

Many plant-lovers are also interested in their family history. They spend hours doing detective work in the deepest, darkest reaches of a library. Then they organize the information into a tree pattern, usually in black-and-white, and only bring it out at special occasions.

So, you can literally redefine the meaning of family tree by simply combining your interest in your family's roots with your plant-loving nature. Create a family heritage garden.

Put this on a personal level and by creating a family heritage garden you can do the same — record your family history one plant at time.

As you read this, you may already be thinking you have a family heritage garden under way with several years of history. If not, no worries, there are a plenty ways to start recording your family history botanically.

The first step is to think about a theme. Some ideas are having children or grandchildren pick out a plant for their special occasion (a great way to get them involved in gardening).

Perhaps newlyweds will plant their wedding flower at their first home as a symbol of starting their family. Perhaps favorite plants of family members will be used to create the garden.

It's your opportunity to be creative and make this project your own.

Here are some questions to get your started: Do you want to receive your favorite plants as gifts from family and friends? Do you want to purchase family members' favorite plants for your garden? Do you want family members to donate plants from their gardens? Do you want to use the garden to mark significant life events like a birth, wedding anniversary, graduation, retirement or death?

Once you have your theme, set up some guidelines.

This may or may not be important depending on how much family involvement you have. But, if family members will be contributing to the garden you will want to let them know what types of plant characteristics will work in your garden.

Some important information to share will be hardiness zone, light conditions, soil conditions, moisture level, space limitations and what you are comfortable tending to. If you can't grow a rose to save your life let folks know this up-front.

On the other hand, if a loved one's favorite flower is the rose, it can be just the needed challenge to expand your gardening repertoire.

As you begin your garden, keep track of the plants you are adding to it. Record who gave the plant, when, what type of plant and what family significance it represents.

As the plants grow take photos and send them to the family members with updates. When family visits make sure to take them on a family heritage garden tour so they can enjoy the living family history.

Your garden will be the legacy to pass along to the younger generations.



In the Garden Talk...

Northern Wisconsin State Fair Pollinator Garden

On May 20 and 21 planting was completed for the native plant demonstration pollinator garden at Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds. The hero of the two days was a female chickadee who bravely stayed on her eggs in the garden bird house as the building behind her was painted, the area bordering the garden was asphalted, and gardeners planted all around her. Almost 150 plants were added this year thanks to our team of volunteers: Sue Larson, Sue Crisp, Sharon Bergstad, Sandy Kenner, Shirley Blizek, Mary Jo Fleming, Linda Stockinger (raised and donated plants), Stacey Mazur, and Elaine Olsen.

As of May 31, American Painted Lady caterpillars were trying to eat Pearly Everlastings to the ground. As I reminded Joe, who is head of grounds, the little critters are doing what they are supposed to be doing in a butterfly garden. Hopefully, by fair time those guys will have morphed into butterflies and the plants will have recovered.

Submitted by Mary Jo Fleming



Chippewa Valley Master Gardener display at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair.

