Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers
January Meeting—Monday, February 25 6:00 pm, at the Annex Building

Introduction to Permaculture — Mary Eberle

www.first-step-renew.com — mary@first-step-renew.com
Madison Area Permaculture Guild — http://madisonareapermacultureguild.org

Mary Eberle of First Step Review will be our guest speaker at our February meeting. Mary will be visiting us from Madison and to be courteous of her travel time, she will start at 7:00pm. (This is all dependent on good travel conditions too!) Mary will share her presentation “Introduction to Permaculture.”

Mary has shared her presentation at the Madison Garden Expo and with other gardening groups.

Mary Eberle founded First Step Renew, LLC, where she teaches classes on sustainable living. Mary is interested in gardening, cooking, alternative vehicles, home energy conservation, urban agriculture, herbal medicine, renewable energy, and permaculture. She actively participates in the Madison Area Permaculture Guild, gardens in her backyard, and keeps chickens with her nephew. Mary has volunteered with local food groups in Madison.

Mary has a long history of teaching, beginning with her decade-long career in science. There she presented talks at scientific conferences and provided hands-on training to lab co-workers. During her subsequent thirteen-year career as a patent attorney, she presented legal seminars and taught junior lawyers. In addition, she regularly presents a variety of workshops at the energy fairs of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association and the Illinois Renewable Energy Association.

She holds a Bachelors degree in biology, a law degree, and a Permaculture Design Certificate from Midwest Permaculture Institute, LLC.
March 2013 Calendar of Events

9 – Taste the Wild with Elderberry – Milwaukee – Jane Cole will be the presenter for the Herb Society of America - Wisconsin Unit’s 19th annual spring symposium at the Women’s Club of Wisconsin, 813 Kilbourn Ave, Milwaukee. The symposium starts at 9:00 a.m. with a social hour, raffle, gift shopping, and herbal continental breakfast, with the program at 10:00 a.m. This is followed by a gourmet herbal luncheon at noon. For more information contact Joan at (262) 377-1461, see the Herb Society symposium webpage, or download the registration form.

9-17 – Chicago Flower & Garden Show – Chicago, IL – Large horticulture show at Navy Pier with demonstration gardens, vendors, seminars, workshops and more. Mon-Sat 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sun 10:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tickets $15-$19. For more information see the CFGS website.

12 – Herb Garden Design – Cedarburg – The first in a series of three lectures co-sponsored by the Ozaukee Co. MGA and the Herb Society of America - Wisconsin Unit. Amy-Mae Miller, owner of Thymely Herbs in Grafton, WI will discuss a brief history of herb garden design and modern applications for the home. At 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H youth Building at the Ozaukee Co. Fairgrounds in Cedarburg. $8, includes herbal refreshments and recipes. For more info contact Kathleen at (920) 377-3276 or Denise at (262) 376-0482 or see the Ozaukee Co. MGA website.

16 – Master Composter Training – Balsam Lake – Participates will gain a more thorough understanding of the composting process as well as common uses for compost. The program provides an introduction to vermicomposting and techniques to reduce the amount of waste generated. Master Composter trainees will learn strategies that will enable them to share their knowledge and interest in composting with others. In order to become a certified Master Composter trainees must attend the one-day workshop and complete 3 outreach activities. For info contact Jennifer Blazek, Polk Co. UW-Ext. at (715) 485-8600.

16 – Second Step Beekeeping Class – Madison – This class from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. is for those who have already kept bees one year, and now find themselves with many additional questions, and a feeling there is more to know. Lecture and Q&A periods. Artisan honey, hand dipped candles, and several other products available for purchase (cash). Rich Schneider of Capitol Bee Supply will be on hand with woodenware and equipment for sale. At the Dane Co. Extension Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison, WI. $40 includes handouts, membership in the Dane Co. Beekeeper’s Association, free sample journals and catalogues. For more information or to register, contact Jeanne Hansen at (608) 244-5094.

23 – Spring Thaw Symposium – Green Bay Botanical Garden, Green Bay – Details coming soon. For more information, contact the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Road, P.O. Box 12644, Green Bay, WI 54307-2644 at (920) 491-3691 ext 103.

23 – Master Composter Training – Hurley – Participates will gain a more thorough understanding of the composting process as well as common uses for compost. The program also provides an introduction to vermicomposting and techniques to reduce the amount of waste generated. Master Composter trainees will learn strategies that will enable them to share their knowledge and interest in composting with others. In order to become a certified Master Composter trainees must attend the one-day workshop and complete three outreach activities. For more information contact Joy Schelibe, Iron Co. UW-Extension at (715) 561-2695.

23 – Beekeeping for Beginners – Madison – This class from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. is for those with no experience at all in beekeeping. Lecture with props will touch on everything you need to know for your first year. Artisan honey, hand dipped candles, and several other products available for purchase (cash). Rich Schneider of Capitol Bee Supply will be on hand with woodenware and equipment for sale. At the Dane Co. Extension Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison, WI. $40 includes handouts, membership in the Dane Co. Beekeeper’s Association, free sample journals and catalogues. For more information or to register, contact Jeanne Hansen at (608) 244-5094.

23-24 – Garden Getaway: Garden Art & the Art of Gardening – Mineral Point – Get your gardening juices flowing with some practical know-how and exciting garden art at Garden Getaway, a weekend of workshops and lectures/demos devoted to the garden offered by Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts. Lectures/demos: Home Canning; Growing Big on a Small Spot. Hands-on workshops: Mosaic and Carved Hypertufa Garden Ornaments; Gourd Birdhouse; Hypertufa Planters; Herbal Soaps and Scrubs; Willow Trellis/Garden Gate; Rustic Plant Stand; Vermiculture Worm Farm; Garden Silk Scarves; Ikebana Tray; Gourd Basketry. Sign up for one session, just a few...or come for the whole weekend. For information or to register visit www.ShakeRagAlley.com or call (608)987-3292.

BOERNEF BOTANICAL GARDENS: For info or to register contact Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, WI 53130 at (414)525-5659 or email scheduling@f.bg.org.

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDENS: 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe IL 60022. Phone: (847)835-5440.

GARDENS OF THE FOX CITIES: Register for classes on the Event Calendar. For info contact Gardens of the Fox Cities, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd. Appleton, WI 54911 at (920)993-1900.

GREEN BAY BOTANICAL GARDEN: For more information, contact the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Road, P.O. Box 12644, Green Bay, WI 54307-2644 at (920)491-3691 ext 103

MN LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM: For info contact the Education Department, Minnesota Arboretum, P.O. Box 39, Chanhassen, MN 55318-0039 at (952)443-1422.

NORTHWIND PERENNIAL FARM: For info contact Northwind Perennial Farm, 7047 Hospital Rd, Burlington, WI 53105 at (262)248-8229 or info@northwindperennialfarm.com.

OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS: For info contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608)246-4550 or download the Classes and Workshops Brochure. Pre-registration required, including online registration from the OBG website.
MGV Seminars Around the State . . . March 2013

As we look forward to spring, here are a number of other seminars around the state being sponsored by other MGV groups. All of these are sure to keep us looking forward to getting out into the garden!

2 – Spring into Gardening Seminar – La Crosse – Sponsored by Bluff Country Master Gardeners of La Crosse County from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Keynote speakers are Diane Whealy, co-owner of Seed Savors Exchange and Jeff Gillman on “The truth about garden remedies.” Also breakout sessions, silent auction, vendors, and lunch. At the WTC Lunda Center, 319 N 7thSt. La Crosse, WI. For more information contact Ellen Rosborough or see the registration brochure at http://www.bluffcountrymastergardeners.org/.

2 – Spring Begins! – Menomonie – Presented by the Dunn Co. MGA, with speakers on Gardening Smarter, NOT Harder. From 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Dunn Co. Judicial Center, Room 1402, 615 Stokke Parkway, Menomonie. $5 by Feb 22 ($8 after). For more information contact Deb Alleno or download the Spring Begins! registration brochure.

9 – Flowers, Chickens and Bugs, Oh My! – Monroe – Presented by the South Central WI MGA, this symposium from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. features three general speakers and two breakout sessions. Mark Dwyer, Rotary Botanical Gardens, will discuss New Flowering Annuals and Perennials; Sandra Newby presents Gardening with Birds: The Pleasures and Pitfalls of Sharing Your Yard with Chickens; and Susan Mahr, WI MG Program Coordinator, will talk on What’s Bugging My Garden?. At Ludlow Mansion, 1421 Mansion Dr, Monroe, WI. For more information contact Cheryl Rezabek.

16 – Garden Expectations – Kimberly – Annual conference presented by the Outagamie Co. MGA at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. For more information contact Kathy Baum.

16 – Garden U – New Richmond – Sponsored by the St. Croix Valley MGA, this day long seminar includes 4 speakers, lunch and vendors. At Ready Randy’s, 1490 131st St, New Richmond, WI. $30. For more information contact the SCVMGA at (715) 549-6438 or download the registration brochure.

16 – Gardening Seminar – Pardeeville – Offered by the Columbia Co. MGA from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Pardeeville High School. Concurrent sessions on a variety of topics, garden-related vendors, lunch available on-site. For more info contact Becky Gutzman.

23 – Day in the Garden – Fond du Lac – Offered by the Fond du Lac Co. MGA at UW-FDL. Scheduled speakers are Noel Valdez - Organic Gardening; Patti Nagai - Brighten your Living Space with Indoor Plants; and Janet Macunovich - Continuous Color in the Garden. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m., program from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. $35 before March 1 ($40 after), includes lunch. Contact Kathy Schneider at (920) 929-3171.

23 – Gardening in Tune with Nature – Wautoma – Offered by the Waushara Co. MGA from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with four speakers, $25 by March 10 ($35 after). Optional lunch $10 by March 10 only. For more information contact Helen Cox or download the Gardening In Tune registration brochure.

Reminder . . . ALL of these MGV sponsored events qualify for continuing educational hours.
Volunteer Opportunities

GARDEN PARADE 2013

Interested in becoming more involved in the planning of Garden Parade 2013? Do you have expertise in a specific area? Want to be involved in a dynamic, creative, inspiring event and committee? We would love to expand our opportunities in securing sponsors for the event. Do you have any ideas or ability to assist in this area?

You do not necessarily need to attend meetings if you are able to assist a specific committee as there are many tasks that need to be accomplished such as distributing posters, putting out signs, setting up the library window for publicity, etc. And of course, most importantly, we will need volunteers during the event to meet and greet the public, answer questions and assist with tours of the gardens. Sign up will begin in April so plan your summer activities accordingly. We’d love to have you!

Sub-committees are listed at right along with their respective members. Please feel free to contact any committee member with questions or an interest to become involved.

THE FLOWER BEDS ARE COMING!

Spring will indeed make its way into Wisconsin, and we need YOUR help with the Flower Beds that the Portage County Master Gardeners help to design, plant, maintain, and revise! Each Flower Bed has its own special details and challenges that make for an interesting way to gain volunteer hours.

Listed below are the Flower Beds that we currently work with. The coordinators are also listed. As you can see, we need some special gardeners to step forward and accept the challenge of being “in charge” of one of these beds. The amount of time and effort you put into the flower bed is your choice depending on the results you wish to achieve. We have many “worker bees” ready to help you out!

Please contact either Carol Jansing (carole.jansing@att.net) or Chrismary Pacyna (cmpacyna@charter.net) to let us know that you are interested in being part of the Flower Bed Committee. We are more than willing to give you more information on the flower beds, and to help you get started. We will have a meeting to get started in mid-March, probably the 18 or 19th.

THINK SPRING! THINK SPRING!

HOMEROOM & GARDEN SHOW

The Portage County Master Gardeners are having a booth at the Home and Garden Show again. This will be at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point, right off Hwy. 10 on the east side of Stevens Point at 1101 Amber Ave.

I need to find Master Gardeners to man the booth for the three day show. It’s a fun way to get volunteer hours by answering garden and landscape questions and giving information on the Master Garden Program for those interested.

I will have a sign up sheet at the next meeting or you can call me at (715) 366-2807, or e-mail me at sandb52@yahoo.com if interested.

Need one person to help set up Friday March 8th, any time between 10am and 4pm. Need 2 people for these time slots:

Friday, March 8th: 5pm-8pm
Saturday, March 9th: 10am-1pm and 1pm-4pm
Sunday, March 10th: 10am-2pm

Thank You—Sandy Boehm
PCMGV Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2013


The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Rick Jansing at the Annex.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved with the addition of Sally Prideaux as an attendee.

Treasurer’s Report was presented by Chere Schmit.

Rick Jansing announced the Board of Director positions. There is one Board position opening.

Committee Reports:
- Display: Barb Gifford is working on an aquatic themed display. She is requesting photos & etc. showing what MGV do.
- Flower Beds: Chrismy Pacyna will have a February 17 committee meeting. There are coordinators for each bed, however, there are some open positions at this time. Contact Chrismy or Carole Jansing to help.
- Funds: Cindy Bredow has sent a check to the UWSP for Horticulture scholarships. She has applications for grants.
- Garden Dreams: Char Kolinski thanked all MGV for their help in making Garden Dreams a successful event. Continuing Education hours are 4.5. IF YOU VOLUNTEERED TO WORK AT GD, REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR TRAVEL TIME. THESE HOURS ARE PLACED IN THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION COLUMN BECAUSE THIS IS AN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR. Contact Char for speaker ideas for the January 11, 2014 GD.
- Membership: John Kolinski asked MGV to pick up their membership cards and Committee Chairpersons to pick up a copy of the 2012 PCMGV Renewal Form results
- Plant Sale: Chere Schmit received confirmation from Heath for the May 18 sale. There will be a committee meeting in March.
- Garden Parade: Katie Rettler announced a February 13, 9:00 a.m. meeting at the Rettler Corp. Watch the newsletter for more information.
- Y Garden: Dan Goulet reported that there will be a February or early March committee meeting. The new addition to the Y garden is a 120 ft. linear fence.

WIM-GA: Lynn Caine
- The WI Public TV Garden Expo is February 8-10 in Madison at the Alliant Energy Center.
- WI Master Composter Program workshops are set for Spring.
- The District WIMGA meeting is Feb. 23.
- 40 hours of CE is available online Feb.-June ’13 A Row to Hoe: Fruits, Veggies & Community Gardens.

Extension Report: Ken
- SPASH is having a Science Extravaganza on March 9 from 10:00-2:30. MGV are invited to have a presentation.
- Copies of the PCMGV Volunteer Program Highlights and Annual Report were distributed. Copies will be available at the Feb. 25 meeting.
- The Qualifying CE hours hand-out was distributed and discussed. MGV ARE ASKED TO KEEP THIS INFO ON FILE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. Copies will be available at the Feb. 25 mtg. Or request a copy from the Ex. Office. Programs and activities not mentioned on this hand-out need to be approved in advance by Ken.
- Underlined events in the newsletter qualify for CE, also, some of the by Jay Mar seminars.

Awards for cumulative volunteer service was presented.
- 150 Hours: Sue Baldischwiler, Tom Baldischwiler, Elfri Goskowicz, Timothy Goskowicz, Kathy Goulet, Carole Jansing, Marily Malcolm, Deb McGill, Walt Rasmussen
- 250 Hours: Shelley Binder, Timothy Goskowicz, Kathy Goulet, Jan Pierson, Judith Thies, Jill Trochell-Ziehr
- 500 Hours: Jean Danielson, Dan Goulet, Gail Zalewski
- 1000 Hours: Danise Otte, Chere Schmit
- 2500 Hours: Charlotte Kolinski


The new MGV received their certified cards and a bag with the MGV emblem.

Announcements:
- Kelly Berg is a volunteer at the Greenhouse. She had flyers available for interested MGV to become involved with the Farmshed Program
- Thank you to the Programs committee for the dinner!

The next meeting is February 25 at the Annex at 6:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Continuing Education: 2012 Garden Parade 45 minutes

Submitted by Sandra Newby PCMGV Secretary
March Garden Guide

- Plant tuberous rooted begonias indoors early month.
- Begin regular fertilization of houseplants.
- March is a good month to make cuttings of many houseplants.
- Order perennial plants and specify that they be delivered when the ground is workable.
- Start seeds of slow-growing annuals. Transfer them as appropriate in April to cold frame.
- Start bulbs of calla. They will bloom from June to August.
- Start seedlings of cabbage, celery, cauliflower, head lettuce, and parsley.
- Keep amaryllis foliage growing by watering and feeding.
- Continue to inspect stored vegetables. Anything showing signs of spoilage should be removed immediately and either used or discarded.
- Don’t worry if spring-flowering bulbs are sending up green leaves. The foliage can withstand winter weather.
- March is the leanest month for wildlife, so protect shrubs and plants with wire cages or sprinkle ground with cat hair or blood meal.
- Do not remove mulch from perennials too early. Keep light covering of mulch over spring bulbs.
- Rake off last season’s mulches on garden soil so it can dry and be warmed by the sun. Remove any plant residue left from last year.
- If the compost pile froze during winter, turn it now, and add fresh manure to help restart the composting process.
- Finish pruning dormant trees.
- Sharpen lawn mower blades and have mower serviced before spring rush.
- If you fertilize, apply to shade trees, fruit trees and shrubs when buds swell, as well as to evergreens and raspberries.
- Prune summer flowering (after end of June) shrubs.
- Finish pruning grapes. Non-dormant pruning will cause excessive bleeding.
- Finish dormant pruning of fruit trees and berry bushes. Remove diseased or infected branches.
First Step Renew

Introduction to Permaculture
Mary Eberle • www.first-step-renew.com • mary@first-step-renew.com

Madison Area Permaculture Guild

- http://madisonareapermacultureguild.org
- Monthly meetings on third Thursday of the month
- Google Group with 300+ members
- Currently offering a Permaculture Design Certificate course & classes

Books

- Permaculture: A Designers’ Manual by Bill Mollison (the Permaculture bible)
- Introduction to Permaculture by Bill Mollison (a smaller, introductory book)
- Earth User’s Guide to Permaculture by Rosemary Morrow
- The One-Straw Revolution: An Introduction to Natural Farming by Masanobu Fukuoka,
- Restoration Agriculture by Mark Shepard (local author, focus on perennial agriculture, new book)

YouTube Videos

- Bill Wilson, Midwest Permaculture
- Greg David, Jefferson County Community Supported Energy, Watertown, Wisconsin
- Geoff Lawton—“Greening the Desert”
- Bill Mollison—“Suburbia Transformed” about a Davis, California neighborhood
- David Holmgren

Local Permaculture Sites

- Greg David, Prairie Dock Farm, Jefferson Cty., greenhouse, rocket stoves, wood-gas stoves
  - Open Monday afternoons—contact him first
- Robert Frost: Tours—onestrawrob.com
- Suellen Thomson-Link—Open house Saturday before Mother’s Day: http://www.baabaashop.com

What You Can Do With Permaculture

- Pick one thing & learn more about it
- Read books & Watch YouTube videos
- Plant an herb garden close to or in your house (zone 0 or 1)
- Plant a fruit tree in your backyard; add supportive plants to form a fruit tree guild
- Visit a permaculture site
- Join Madison Area Permaculture Guild
- Enroll in a Permaculture Design Course (PDC)
- Participate in a class
  - Madison Area Permaculture Guild’s PDC course has 1-day classes
  - First Step Renew, LLC classes

Companies Selling Permaculture Plants

- Reeseville Ridge Nursery (local, many small and reasonably priced fruit trees, canes, and bushes & Siberian pea shrub—a nitrogen-fixing shrub)
- One Green World (Oregon state, many fruit trees, bushes, and vines & Siberian pea shrub—a nitrogen-fixing shrub)
- Lawyers Nursery (Montana, many fruit trees, rootstock for grafting)
- Mark Shepard’s Forest Agriculture Enterprises (Viola, WI, http://www.forestag.com, elder(berry) bushes, chestnut and hazelnut trees)