

Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Association

Quarterly Newsletter – Winter 2015



Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Volunteer, Nancy Harland passed away on Wednesday, February 11th. She was a kind person and a dedicated Master Gardener Volunteer. Nancy has been a MGV since taking the class with her husband, Jim, in 2000. Nancy and Jim were very instrumental in the development of the first community pantry garden, The Garden of Eatin' in North Bay. Nancy's dedication to growing food for families in need continued with the development of the second MGV pantry garden, The Garden of Giving. Nancy also was dedicated to serving the public through her service as a Plant Health Advisor in the Ives Grove Office. In her 15 years of service, Nancy devoted nearly 3000 hours of volunteer time with MGV projects, 1600 hours with the pantry garden projects and over 1300 hours as a PHA. She will be missed.



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Ridgewood Health Care Center's Healing Garden

Just what the doctor ordered...well, almost. The 17 Master Gardener Volunteers who work on the Ridgewood Health Care Center project in Racine make every effort to provide a beautiful and healing environment for those who come to Ridgewood for Rehab services or long-term care. We even hear comments from visitors who say the plantings lift their spirits as they come to the facility!

One of our goals for Ridgewood is to have something blooming from early spring until the snow flies. The latest example was the planting in 2014 of 6 serviceberries (amelanchiers) to provide biodiversity within the garden setting. The serviceberries provide beautiful flowers in the spring, fruit for the birds and animals in late spring, and lovely foliage in the fall.

Another goal is to create pleasant views from within Ridgewood looking out, as well as for those who stroll or wheel their

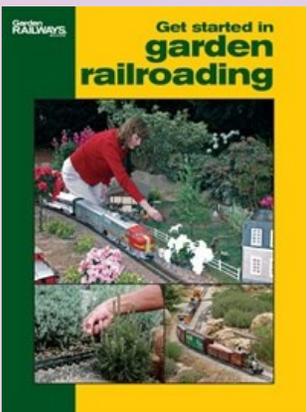
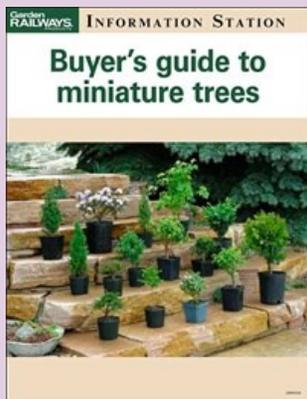
way around the grounds with caregivers, family, and friends. Four years ago we developed a plateau garden, banked by a large rock retaining wall that can be enjoyed by the residents as they eat in the dining room or gaze out from the rooms on that side of the building.



A further goal includes having something to offer for everyone, regardless of what their interests happen to be. Do you like rock gardens? Not exactly the Grand Canyon, but we do have several pocket rock garden areas. How about water? We have a pond with both feisty and shy fish splashing



Garden Railways® magazine is published by Kalmbach Publishers. They specialize in publications for hobbyists. They are an authoritative source of information about train gardening. They publish a magazine and have various books and videos available through their website: <http://grw.trains.com/>



about. Are trains your passion? We have a fabulous garden train that putters around a large track area and will make your head spin if you spend enough time there. Have a hankering for herbs? We have a slowly expanding herb garden from which the facility chef can snip fresh items for that special touch in a recipe. Are roses your favorite? Stick your nose in one of ours! How about perennials, annuals, vines, flowering trees and shrubs? Check! Looking for shade? Got that covered too. We are currently developing a shady wildflower garden that will offer tiny ephemeral treasures each

spring. Got a thing for birds? We have several feeders that are frequently entertaining, especially the time the squirrel got stuck IN a tube feeder. Don't suppose it was all that entertaining for that squirrel, however!

We would be remiss unless we mentioned the fact that many of our successes are due to donations. Our MGVs donate plants from their own gardens. About 20 flats of annuals a year are given to us by Wayne's Daughters Greenhouses. Our own MGV Jerry Steimle starts many things from seed and plants them near the front entrance of

Ridgewood, creating a grand entry to all who come to the facility. The Potpourri Garden Club is hugely generous to us with monetary grants. The Racine Law Enforcement Center and Home Depot have volunteers who come and work with us a couple of times a year on larger projects, and the Ridgewood Care Center itself furnishes funds and help for our efforts.

Together we have all forged a project that everyone can be proud of in the Racine Community.

Written by MGVs Sharon Shouldice & Linda Graeper

Winter Sowing in Minnesota (or Wisconsin)!

Well it's winter, the snow is falling and it is time to start planting those vegetable and flower seeds outside in Minnesota (or Wisconsin).

Wait! What?? Yes I did say you can plant outside now, but in a very special way. It is called Winter Sowing.

Here's how to do it.

1. Cut a plastic milk jug nearly in half. You should have a base container and a flip top. Remove the cap; you will not need it again.

2. Other plastic containers work, too. Remember they must have covers with openings in them and be able to have drainage holes. Be creative!

3. Now add the potting soil or seed starting soil to the jug (depth 3-4").

3. Add water to the soil so that it is quite muddy.

4. Now plant your seeds. One variety per container is best. You decide how many seeds to plant; most will sprout so consider that when planting.

5. Make sure to label the container well. I label the container and add a label inside the container.

6. Using duct tape, tape the container closed (remember the cap is NOT ON).

7. Now take the container outside and with a knife or sharp object poke a few holes in the bottom for drainage.

8. Set the container down. It can sit in the snow, on the patio, or anywhere else that is not in direct sunlight. A north or east exposure is best.

You can start almost any seed using this method except those seeds that are sensitive to frost. Root crops may not be the best as you must transplant them and they don't like that. However, this year I am trying radishes as I always wait too long to plant them outside and then it's too warm. I plan on harvesting the radishes from the container, not transplanting them.

You can start doing this anytime in January forward. March is a great time to set out your winter sowing of tomatoes and peppers.

Once the plants start to sprout, you have to care for them. Make sure to open the containers on warm days and if the nights will be frosty close the containers again in the evening.

Make sure to keep the plants watered. When the soil is ready in your garden or containers and the weather is right, go ahead and transplant your winter-sown plants. They will have been fairly well hardened off.



So what's great about winter sowing? No grow lights, no heating pads, no damping off, no spilled trays and yet lots of plants. If you want more information you can go to <http://www.wintersown.org/>

Happy Winter Sowing!

By Theresa Rooney, Hennepin County Master Gardener. Posted on February 18, 2013 by Karen Valerio. hennepinmastergardeners.org/2013/02/winter-sowing-in-minnesota/



A conversation between God and St. Francis:

Submitted by MGV Dorothy Bronson-Bodeau

God said: "Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds? and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles."

St. FRANCIS:

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD:

Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD:

The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast.

That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD:

They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS:

Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD:

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS:

No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD:

Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS:

Yes, Sir.

GOD:

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS:

You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD:

What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS:

You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD:

No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS:

After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD:

And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS:

They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

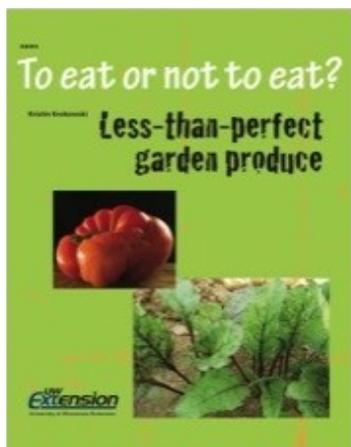
GOD:

Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St.. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE:

"Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



New Publication

Available in the UWEX Learning Store

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/To-Eat-or-Not-to-Eat-Less-Than-Perfect-Garden-Produce-P1749.aspx>

Insects and disease can affect fruits and vegetables in the garden. Most damage poses no health risk. This series of fact sheets helps you answer the question: Is it safe to eat? Covers: vegetable and fruit spots; leaf spots; odd shapes; mold; rot; chewing damage; worms and maggots; caterpillar damage; leafminers; and loopers. (2014; 24 pages).

Author: Kristin Krokowski

**Sturtevant Beautification Committee's
Community Garden
By MGV Rose Woodruff**

What is a community garden? It is simply a plot of land developed by a group who share a sense of community and care of the earth. In 2011, Linda Busha and Rose Woodruff, co-chairs of the beautification committee began researching the idea of developing a community garden in the village. An ideal piece of land next to the village hall was approved for use by the village board, followed by the development of garden rules and regulations. The following year, the beautification committee members gathered to do the hard work of laying out 12 plots and preparing the soil for planting. Since that time, each year there have been beautiful gardens planted with both flowers and vegetables. Master Gardener Volunteers often lead educational meetings or provide information for the gardeners and village residents on topics from composting to growing and preserving vegetables. We share gardening tips and produce with each other, along with friendships. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who is interested in developing their own small garden in a plot all ready for the seeds and plants! The only requirements are \$20 deposit (\$10 is returned at the end of the season following a clean-up of your plot) and acknowledgement of the garden rules. The plots are open on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in joining the community of gardeners or have questions, please call either Linda at 412-5578 or Rose at 886-3282.

Artificial Flowers by Gillian S. Holmes

Background

Silk and other artificial flowers manufactured today are breathtakingly real and must be touched if they are to be distinguished from nature's own. Silk trees bring the outdoors into sterile offices, and flower arrangements change the color and feel of a room for a relatively small investment. Hobbyists find them a joy to work with and take pleasure in completing arrangements that make beautiful, lasting gifts and ornaments.

The vast improvements in the quality of artificial flowers as well as lifestyles that demand carefree home decorating accessories have caused a flowering of the artificial flower industry into a multi-billion-dollar business. Many of the individual flowers, stems, and foliage are now imported from Thailand, China, and Honduras where the intensive hand labor can be acquired more readily.

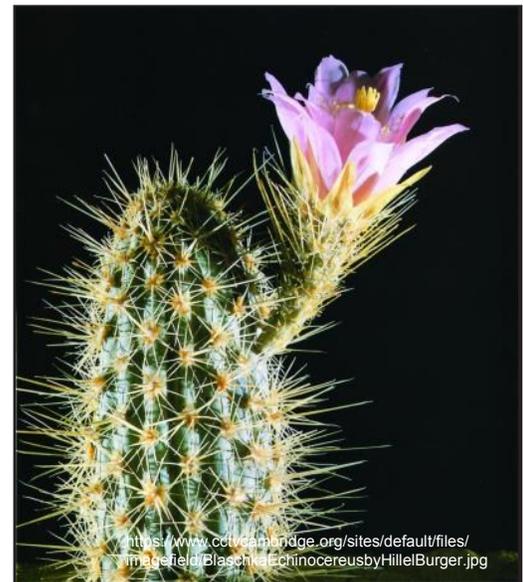
Faux flowers allow home decorators to defy the seasons, not only by having summer blooms in the dead of winter but by mixing flowers from several seasons in a single display. Some manufacturers use real materials to enhance silk flowers, such as inserting artificial branches in real tree trunks. Real touches are also added to the false flora; leaves may have holes that look like insect damage, silk roses are complete to the thorns, and some fabulous fakes are even fragrant. Their ultimate attraction may be their least natural aspects; these plants don't need water, fertilizer, sunlight, or tender care.

History

Florists call silk and other artificial flowers "permanent botanicals," and for many years, they looked down on both dried flowers and artificial flowers as inferior. Today, silk flowers are prized for their versatility and are used by florists to enhance live plants and mingle with cut blossoms. This tradition is hundreds of years old and is believed to have been started by the Chinese who mastered the skills of working with silk as well as creating elaborate floral replicas. The Chinese used artificial flowers for artistic expression, but they were not responsible for turning silk flower-making into a business.

As early as the twelfth century, the Italians began making artificial florals from the cocoons of silkworms, assembling the dyed, velvety blooms, and selling them. The French began to rival their European neighbors, and, by the fourteenth century, French silk flowers were the top of the craft. The French continued to improve both fabrics and the quality of flowers made from them. In 1775, Marie Antoinette was presented with a silk rosebud, and it was said to be so perfect that it caused her to faint. The Revolution that ended Marie Antoinette's reign also dispatched many French flower artisans to England, and, by the early 1800s, English settlers had taken the craft with them to America.

The Victorian Age was the setting for a true explosion in floral arts, including both living and artificial varieties. The



Glass Flowers at Harvard's Museum of Natural History

3,000 amazingly realistic glass models of plants, flowers and fruits, painstakingly handcrafted from 1886 to 1936 by German glass artists, father and son Leopold & Rudolph Blaschka. Created as teaching models for Harvard's botanical museum, the Blaschkas' works allowed students to examine flowering plants from all over the world before the invention of airplanes and color photography. Heirs to a long tradition of glass-working in Bohemia, the Blaschkas had a studio outside of Dresden, Germany.

Victorians favored an overdone style of decor in which every table and mantelpiece bore flowers or other ornaments. Flowers were so adored that "the language of flowers" grew to cult status in which floral bouquets carried messages and meanings. During the mid- to late-1800s, artificial flowers were made of a wider variety of materials than any time before or since. Fabrics included satin, velvet, calico, muslin, cambric, crepe, and gauze. Other materials included wood, porcelain, palm leaves,

and metal. Wax flowers were popular and became their own art form, and flowers were even made of human hair especially to commemorate deceased loved ones.



Sprig of artificial orange blossom worn by Henrietta Woodcock at her wedding, 1848. Victoria and Albert Museum, London

In the United States, lavish arrangements and apparel made use of permanent botanicals. The Parisian Flower Company, which had offices in both New York and Paris, supplied silk flowers and other artificial florals to milliners, makers of bridal and ball gowns, and other dressmakers, as well as for room decoration. They sold separate stems and



Straw hat, c. 1910, by the Woodland Bros. From the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

arrangements that were either pre-made or commissioned. By 1920, florists began to add them to their products and services

to cover those times when cut blossoms were in short supply.

The trend toward wreaths and ornaments using false fruit in the Italian *della Robbia* style flourished in the 1920s and 1930s and waned by 1940.

Celluloid became a popular material for flowers in the 1940s, but the highly flammable flowers were banned from importation from Japan after several disastrous fires. Plastic soon overwhelmed the industry, however, and is still responsible for its versatility in the 1990s. Inexpensive plastics to realistic silk blossoms offer something for everyone.

Raw Materials

Artificial flowers are made in a wide variety of materials depending on the market the manufacturer is reaching. In quantity, polyester has become the fabric of choice by flower makers and purchasers because of lower cost, ability of the fabric to accept dyes and durability. Plastic is also the material used most often for the stems, berries, and other parts of flowers for the market that includes picks—small clusters of artificial flowers on short plastic and wire stems that can be inserted into forms to make quick, inexpensive floral decorations—and bulk sales of longer stems of flowers that are also less expensive. Artificial flowers are made of paper, cotton, parchment, latex, rubber, sateen (for large, bold-colored flowers and arrangements), and dried materials, including flowers and plant parts, berries, feathers and fruits.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Hand-made, Since 1923

The Della Robbia wreath program was introduced originally by Boys Republic to serve as a work experience vehicle for students of the non-profit school. The wreaths were patterned after a centuries-old ceramic design created by the Della Robbia family of Florence, Italy. Today, Boys Republic's students produce and ship more than 50,000 wreaths, each year, to destinations throughout the United States and around the world. To learn more or order a wreath visit www.boysrepublic.org



For more upscale silk flowers, silk, rayon, and cotton are the fibers of choice. Wire in a wide range of gauges or diameters is used for firmness in creating the stems (and in stiffening some flower petals and parts), but the wire is wrapped with specially dyed, tear-resistant, durable paper. No plastic is used. Other natural materials such as dried flowers, feathers, and berries are also significant in the upper end market. To make fruit and some berries, specialty suppliers manufacture forms that are precisely sized and shaped to look like the real fruit from mixtures of tapioca or flour base. The forms are sold to the flower manufacturer who dyes them and mounts them on paper-wrapped stems or stalks. All dyes and glues are also derived from natural materials.

Design

Most silk flowers are sold by the stem. Their designs begin with nature. When a silk flower manufacturer plans to make a new design of a magnolia, for example, the designer takes a magnolia fresh from the tree and dissects it to use the actual parts as models. Dies called tools must be made to cut the silk petals. The exact petals are used to design these tools, and three or four are required to make the different sizes of petals that comprise the flower. The leaves also require several tools. The cutting dies are expensive to



2015 wedding trend VIBRANT FLORALS

 SILK BLOOMS



machine, so the manufacturer makes a significant financial commitment when investing in a new design.

Silk flower design is also heavily influenced by trends in interior design and fashion. Manufacturers attend trade shows to learn about colors and styles in wallpaper and furniture or summer dresses and hats that are forecast for one to two years ahead.

The Manufacturing Process

The manufacturing process described



below features high-quality silk flowers that are sold by the stem and are made for custom decorating, millinery, other fashion accessories, displays, package ornamentation, candy companies, and floristry.

1. White silk, rayon, or cotton fabric are used for all petals, regardless of their finished color. The fabric is die-cut using the tools described above into the many petal sizes and shapes that go into a single type of flower. The petals are dyed in the first step of a detailed hand assembly process. The dyer uses cotton balls and paintbrushes to touch color onto the petals beginning with the edges of the petal and working in toward the center. Dyeing a single petal can take an hour of concentrated work.
2. To give them their distinctive curves, wrinkles, and other shapes, the petals are inserted in molds to which heat is applied to press the petals into individual shapes. After they are pressed, some petals and leaves are stiffened with thin wires. The wires are inserted by hand, and glue is touched on to fix the wire in place.
3. The separate flowers and sprays of leaves are assembled individually, but several of each may be used to



construct a single stem. Another skilled worker has taken wire precut to specified lengths and covered it with floral paper or tape that has a waxy coating to make it self-sticking. Finally, assemblers add the individual flowers and sprays of leaves to the The finished stems are taken to the packing department. Each stem is wrapped in florist's paper, and the stems are placed in boxes as if they are to be delivered like a bouquet of real flowers. The boxes are sealed and stored for shipment.

The Future

New technologies like the permastem or permasilk processes that fuse flowers to their stems and makes them more durable

continue to improve the functionality and beauty of faux flowers. Technology is also used to produce dried-look and soft-touch (velvet touch) plants; foliage especially has benefited from soft-touch processing that varies the sizes of leaves on a single branch and gives them a warm, gentle feel.

The future of artificial flowers is likely to imitate its long past. People like to be surrounded by beautiful representations from nature, but they also want the convenience of low-maintenance, everlasting flowers. Our homes and fashions benefit from the addition of artificial flowers, and many other businesses from millinery to confectionery rely on silk flowers to add the finishing touch to their products.

Where to Learn More

Books

Beveridge, Ardith and Shelly Urban. "Permanent Botanicals" In *A Centennial History of the American Florist*. Topeka, KS: Florist Review Enterprises, 1998.
Blacklock, Judith. *Silk Flowers: Complete Color and Style Guide for the Creative Crafter* Radnor, PA: Chilton Book Company, 1995.
Miller, Bruce W. and Mary C. Donnelly. *Handmade Silk Flowers*. New York: Prentice Hall Press, 1986.

Read more: <http://www.madehow.com/Volume-5/Artificial-Flower.html#ixzz3Rp9dqCjf>

Master Gardener Volunteers at the Wisconsin Veteran's Home

On November 7th, 24 Master Gardener Volunteers arrived at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove with shovels and trowels in-hand to plant over 1,500 spring bulbs and shrubs with the goal of improving the garden grounds. This fall gardening project, coinciding closely with Veterans Day, was just the beginning of a long-term partnership to provide therapeutic horticulture programming for the Veterans who reside and receive services there. In the coming year, Master Gardener Volunteers will be providing educational and recreational horticulture activities for Veterans.

The interconnection between humans and nature is important to physical, psychological, cognitive and emotional health. This new Veterans program is a part of Green Works, a therapeutic and vocational horticulture program. Its purpose is to help Veterans connect with nature through garden based activities. Master Gardener Volunteers interested in helping with garden improvements or working with veterans are encouraged to contact MGV Meryl Strichartz



Tillandsia

Unusual-looking plants are showing up in some very unusual places, said a University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator.

“These plants look like tufts of grass, and they are often seen inside of glass globes suspended from little stands on the tops of tables and desks; attached to pieces of bark, cork or wood; suspended from ceilings on fishing line; or laid on a bed of rocks in a shallow dish,” said Greg Stack of U of I Extension.

“These plants are catching the eye of many indoor gardeners because they appear to offer a lot of interesting color and texture while seeming to require very minimal care. It’s almost as if they survive on the air itself because you never see them in a pot of soil. And that is exactly why they are often referred to as air plants,” he said.

Air plants, whose formal name is Tillandsia, are members of the bromeliad family and comprise over 500 different species that actually make very attractive houseplants. Most tillandsia use their root systems to attach themselves to trees and rocks and absorb needed moisture and nutrients

through their leaves. This makes them epiphytes, plants that use something else for support while not really harming what it is they are attached to, Stack explained.

Absorption occurs through small scales on their leaves, and these scales give the plants their unique silver or gray appearance.

“With the popularity of these plants, they are starting to appear just about everywhere, enticing shoppers to buy a few as ‘fashionable accessories’ for decorating,” he said. “Despite their carefree appearance, they still require some attention if you want to keep them happy and healthy.”

The three most important requirements for keeping tillandsias in good condition are bright light—but not direct sun, good air circulation, and water, Stack said.

“Indoors, a south, east, or west window provides an ideal location for allowing the plant to receive bright filtered light. During the summer, they enjoy being outside hung from a tree or other locations where they can receive light shade and protection from direct sun,” Stack added.



Watering is the next critical requirement. “Indoors tillandsias like to receive water about two to four times a week in the form of very heavy misting to the point of runoff. That interval may shorten a bit especially during the winter months when indoor conditions tend to become drier during heating season. Allow the plant to dry between waterings,” he explained.

Stack recommended watching the leaves to determine if the plant is receiving enough water.

“If they start to curl or roll, that indicates dehydration. If that happens, submerge the plant in water overnight to rehydrate and then shake the excess water from the plant before returning it to its display location. The green leaf forms need a little bit more moisture than the gray leaf types,” he said.

Tillandsias also like good air circulation as the air helps dry the plant between watering and prevents disease.

While not absolutely necessary, a light application of fertilizer about once a month will keep plants vigorous, Stack said. However, he cautioned that too much fertilizer can harm them. “Use a liquid type of fertilizer with an analysis such as 10-5-5 and dilute it to about one-quarter the suggested dosage. This is then applied to the plant in the normal watering process.”

If blooms do occur, Stack described them as “exotic and beautiful and lasting from days to months,” he said. “While blooms are not guaranteed, the normal bloom cycle is in late winter and midsummer.”

To learn more visit <http://news.aces.illinois.edu/news/tillandsia-%E2%80%9Cair-plant%E2%80%9D-catching-eye-indoor-gardeners>
By Greg Stack , U of Illinois Extension.

Additional resources include www.airplant.com



SPRING SYMPOSIUM

Herb of the Year - Savory Summer, Winter & Lemon

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015

At the **Woman's Club of Wisconsin**, 813 E. Kilbourn Ave, Milwaukee
9:00 a.m. Herbal Breakfast, Herbal Boutique, Raffle, Beverage Tasting

10:00 a.m. **Guest Speaker, Carrie Hennessy** on "Savory Savvy"

12 Noon Gourmet Herbal Luncheon, by Executive Chef, Jan

Event Price: \$65 a person Pre-Register, No On Site Registration

Deadline for Registration: Saturday, February 28th. *No Refund after February 28

***Further Information & Registration Form: Visit website: herb-society-
wisconsin.org***

Questions: Call 262-377-1461

FREE VALET PARKING

It doesn't matter whether you garden in a few containers on your patio, in your large yard, in an arboretum or botanical garden or with children at their school, you are sure to find something in common with other Herb Society members. Herbs and gardens connect people across spaces and ages. For over 75 years our members have brought to life the HSA mission of sharing the knowledge, use & delight of herbs within all communities. Send your application via our web site (<http://www.herbsociety.org/>); visit the Wisconsin Unit's webpage (<http://www herb-society-wisconsin.org/>); or find other members in your local community (MGV Mary Ann Kennedy is an active member).

Wisconsin Unit

Formed in 1976, the Wisconsin Unit is proud to provide grants to the community for garden projects, multi-art experiences involving herbs and flowers and to provide a horticultural scholarship to a student attending a local university. The Wisconsin Unit supports public herb gardens at Boerner Botanical Gardens (Hales Corner, Wisconsin), Old World Wisconsin (Eagle, Wisconsin) and at Pioneer Village (Saukville, Wisconsin). Membership meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month (September-November and January-May) and include a herbal lunch provided by members. All those with an interest in herbs are invited to attend. Recent unit program topics include native prairie plants as herbs, the art of container gardening and growing plants from seed.

2015 Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Association

Meetings / Educational Programs

Business meetings begin at 6:30 pm
Educational programs start at 7:15 pm
(Field trip times and arrangements to be announced later.)

- March 23 Burlington (UW-Extension): Garden Ideas & Tips
Jill Anderson, Sharon Shouldice, Master Gardeners
- April 27 Field trip: Milaegers Greenhouse Tour
- May 18 Racine:* Monarch Migration
PJ Liesch, UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab
- June 22 Kenosha:** Organic Gardening Methods
Kate Jerome, Gateway Technical College
- July 27 Field Trip: Kenosha County Center Demonstration Garden
- August 24 Kenosha:** Food Preservation
Christina Ward, UW-Extension Master Food Preserver Volunteer
- Sept.28 Racine:* Native Pollinators
Christelle Guedot, UW-Extension Entomology
- October 26 Kenosha:** Getting Ready for Winter
Jerry Nelson, Classic Gardens Nursery
- Nov.16 Racine:* Growing Grapes & Wine Making
Charles Klimek, Arborist and Vintner
- Dec. 14 Kenosha:** Holiday Potluck, Graduation, Awards

***Racine County Location:**

Gateway SCJ iMET Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd,
Highway H (between Highways 11 and 20)

****Kenosha County Location:**

Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, Bristol, WI
(NE corner of Highways 45 & 50)

