

# Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Association

Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2016



The mission of the Racine/Kenosha Master Gardener Association (RKMGA) is to educate, beautify, and preserve the community through trained Master Gardener Volunteers. We have about 200 members and more than 30 projects throughout Racine and Kenosha counties. Our diverse range of volunteer opportunities includes staffing a plant help line, creating and maintaining demonstration gardens, working with youth, teaching horticultural skills to adults with disabilities, and sharing information at special events.



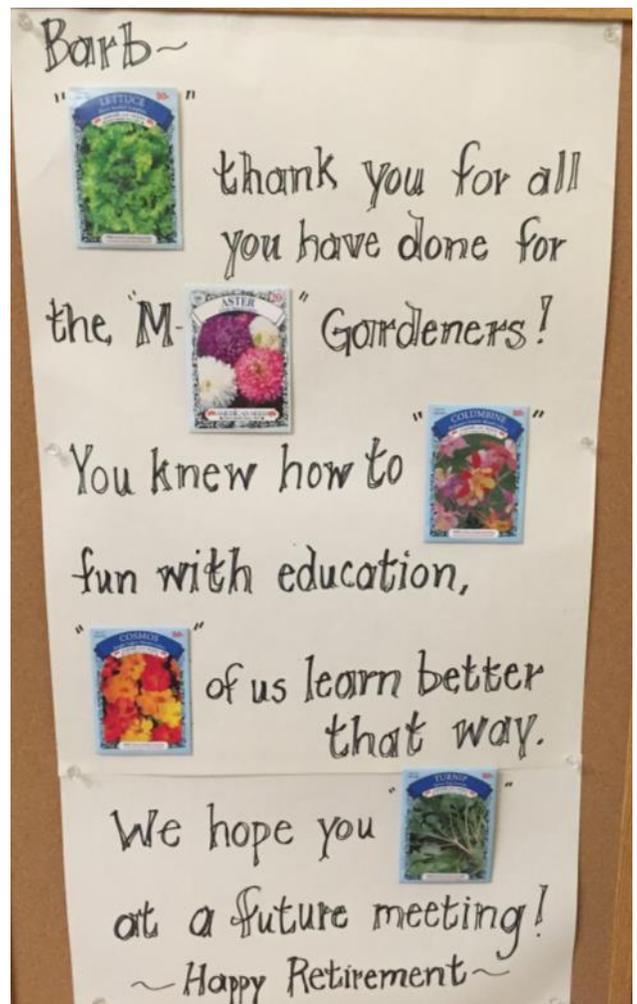
## Happy Retirement!

The Racine Kenosha Master Gardener volunteers presented Barb Larson with a memory book and poster at the August meeting to celebrate her career as an educator and horticulturist.

Happy Retirement Barb!



MGVs creating memory book pages at the Kenosha County Center.



## Helpful Gardening Hints: Canning Lid Plant Tags

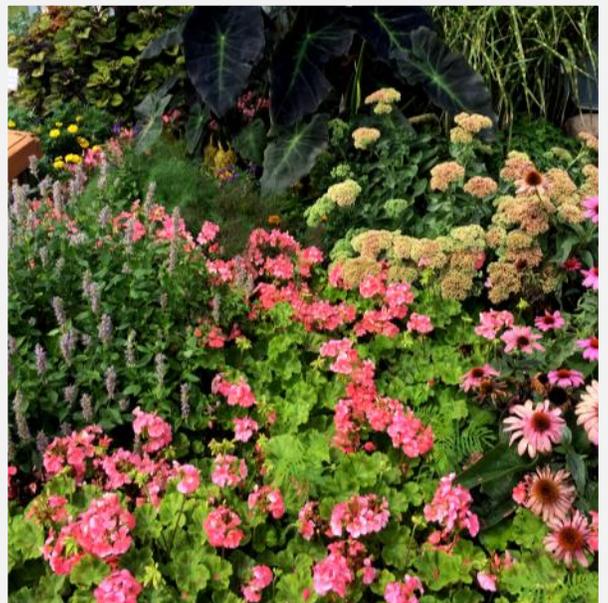
Submitted by Maggie Pisani

I finally figured out what to do with all the canning lids after I have run them through the canner and then used them in the freezer for the second year. I write on the 'inside' surface and use them to mark plants in the garden. I like the white lids best. I find that a china marker or grease pencil works. How about the new outdoor paint pens for garden marking?



## Kenosha County Fair Garden 2016

The gardens looked great this year! Thanks to Jill Anderson, Glenn Anderson, Ruth Perry, Ken Happ, Marta McAllister, Lynette Crowder, Juta Vos and Kathy Lill-Bonner for all of their efforts.



## Project Update: Kemper Center and Anderson Art Center Gardens

Last fall after the death of Master Gardener Diane Holzschuch, coordinator and planner for the Kemper Center gardens, 4 current Master Gardeners worked on the plan for the gardens this past spring. Limited by time and available flowers we duplicated the plan of 2015 with a few additions.

When work began in May we had 7 Master Gardeners and 6 volunteers to get the weeding and planting done. We spend Tuesday from 1 - 4 pm or later doing the usual maintenance. These beds have flourished even in the dry weather with extra watering done by Bob Shaffer from Kemper.

When there is time on Tuesdays, we have done a considerable amount of transplanting through out the Center from the northern end ( street to lake) to the Secret Garden south border of the Anderson Art Center. As we work we see where plants need to be moved. When weather permits we transplant or put it on hold for the fall. We are planning for 2017 with grid diagrams of each of the 26 beds and photos to accompany the diagrams.

We have 17 acres of historical gardens which are part of the Kenosha County Park system. We're planning to fulfill Diana's idea of gardens of perennials, shrubs and trees that are low maintenance and splashes of color from annuals. The color and scheme for next year is yet to be determined by the group.

We are grateful for the hard work of the dedicated volunteers. They have furnished some plants and seeds for the beds. Hopefully as we continue to work together, share ideas and plants and voice our opinions our plan will be achieved. We all work together and are capable of knowing what needs to be done. Come visit some Tuesday afternoon.

Kemper Center Master Gardener Volunteers—submitted by Marge Harmon



Marianne, John, Leon and Rich hard at work.



Rich, Melenie, Char and John pulling weeds.





## Master Gardener Conferences

### Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference 2016

The states of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and Illinois, hold a joint conference every other year. The four states rotate hosting the event. The next conference will be in Wisconsin Dells, WI September 14-17, 2016.

Learn more about the conference at <https://midwestmgconference.wordpress.com/>. Registration is now open.

### International Master Gardener Conference 2017

This conference is held every other year in the US or Canada. The next conference will be in Portland, Oregon July 10-14, 2017. <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>



## GARDENING Q & A

Has anyone managed to make good compost in a tumbler? I may have made a big mistake going from my slow- and- cold- Mother Nature- managed pile to one where I need to think, plan, and manage what I add, when, and when to 'spin!' My first two attempts this spring yielded heavy, tight, wet clods that looked more like horse apples of the horsey kind. This isn't the loose, earthy 'black gold' to which I am accustomed! I finally shoveled the barrels out and am starting again. If you have ideas and experience, I would love to talk to you! Many thanks! Margaret Pisani [mpisani@jpisani.com](mailto:mpisani@jpisani.com)

Have a question or want to share a tip with MGVs in the next newsletter? Submit it to [robinanderson.aia@gmail.com](mailto:robinanderson.aia@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

Sept 26	Racine*	Jennifer Happ, <i>Riverfront</i>	Therapeutic Gardening
Oct 24	Kenosha**	Sandy Raduenz, <i>Pinehold Gardens</i>	Community Supported Agriculture
Nov 14	Racine*	Kelly Kearns, <i>DNR</i>	Invasive Species
Dec 12	Kenosha**	Holiday Potluck, Graduation, Awards	

### \*Racine County Location:

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

### \*\*Kenosha County Location:

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