

BENNINGTON CHAPTER: EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

Each of us has been impacted at different levels by the current isolation brought on by Covid-19 regulations be it family, job, business and/or lifestyle. I hope this newsletter brings a pause to your day and a glimmer of better times to come. ~Dottie

UPDATES

On Hold:

Monday, June 29th at 6-7:30pm *The Pollinators Movie* - Manchester Community Library

Monday, July 20th 6-8pm Old First Church Barn (adjacent to Bennington Monument)

Potluck 2020 Intern Welcome & 2019 Volunteer Recognition

Recycle Law with Paula Kamperman of Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Pending Final Confirmation:

Fall Plant Sale Date TBD

The plant sale originally scheduled for 5/30 has been postponed due to the uncertainty of the current health predicament. We hope to hold it in the Fall but no date has yet been set.

In the meantime, Irene and Martha are happy to report that the plants that were fostered last year at Martha's house (inside and out) are growing well. There are a ton of irises (well really not THAT many, but a lot), 12 clumps of chives, some columbine, salvia and succulents. Spider plants are at every available window and growing profusely. We have a generous source for peonies which are best transplanted in the fall. Please save pots for the event!

1) While we definitely hope that the sale will happen in the fall, if anyone is SOOO overwhelmed by their plants and needs to "rehome" them this spring, Martha has space to foster them until the sale actually happens. Obviously that would need to wait until the current stay-at-home orders lift before something is brought over ... unless you happen to be heading to Poulins' Feed Store (formerly Whitman's) for animal feed or whatever because she's just up the street.

2) If anyone was looking forward to getting a bunch of plants at this spring's Plant Sale to supplement a new garden area, it also would be easy to do a spring mini-sale amongst ourselves with the money going to the Chapter. For example, anything that was "fostered" could easily be potted and set out for someone to pick up... again, when orders lift.

If you have plants to rehome or are looking for some, please contact Martha or Irene.

Fall Event: Dene Farm in Manchester - Date TBD

Andrea Luchini, Hildene Horticulturist - Gathering Seeds - Exploring a Pollinator Strip

Cancelled:

Potluck 2020 Intern Welcome & 2019 Volunteer Recognition, BAM & EMG Planting Seeds workshop, Invasives, Plant Sale Saturday, May 30th

NEWS

Congratulations to two Interns from the class of 2019! Martha Beauchamp and Irene Goyette met the 40 volunteer hour requirement in one year earning full UVM Extension Master Gardener certification in short order. They met at the annual meet and greet in March and agreed to take on the role of Project Leaders for what proved to be a very productive Annual Plant Sale. Well-balanced skill sets coupled with a tireless work ethic led our Chapter to a final tally for one of the highest plant sale earnings of over \$1,000. BRAVO!



Irene Goyette (left), Martha Beauchamp (right)

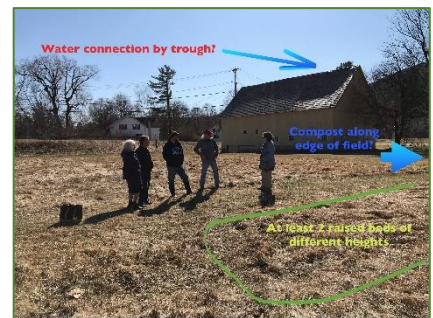
Yellow Barn Community Garden

The Yellow Barn is located on the banks of the Battenkill River on RT 313 West and owned by the Town of Arlington. In 2019, fellow Interns and EMGs revitalized the entrance garden. In 2020, Irene Goyette and Dottie Sundquist, Co-Project Leaders, are working with a group of community members to revitalize a community garden on the site. The small group of individuals represents a balanced skill set: UVM Extension Master Composter, local Arlingtonian/gardener, two experienced community garden workers and UVM EMG's Irene and Dottie.

Our mission is to create a place where community members learn to grow their own fresh food, compost the scraps and gather for informative gardening demonstrations. We are in the planning stages of building raised beds with compost bins nearby to show individuals exactly what the process entails. We plan to offer hands-on demonstrations that will offer science-based research to further their knowledge.

The Yellow Barn Community Garden is a beautiful place to earn volunteer hours and share your love for gardening at the same time.

We look forward to the day when we are able to announce group work sessions! In the meantime, if you happen by, you will find a parking area just to the rear of the barn and any time you spend tidying the garden by the entrance counts toward certification! When you are done feel free to cross the bridge and walk upstream along the river path through the Arlington Recreation Park.



MEET, IF NOT YET GREET, *Extension Master Gardener Members*

Hello! My name is **Maggie Rubick**, and I am new to the EMG program. I am an early childhood educator, advocate, and native Vermonter. I teach Pre-K in Manchester and serve as the Farm to School coordinator for our community-based early childhood program. I am also currently enrolled in graduate school where I (remotely) study Developmental Psychology. My interest in gardens and landscapes was kindled during my own early childhood years in the gardens of my grandparents. Now I am passionate about sharing my curiosity and wonder about the natural world with the children and families that I care for. The photo is of our school garden!



Hello! My name is **Becky Manning**. I am a veterinarian now living in the home my grandfather built in N. Bennington. My interest in wildlife leads me to a focus on their habitat and down the sustainable landscape rabbit hole I go! I hope to limit lawn and expand native plant numbers and health on our property over the next few years. I am happy to be an EMG intern to learn from its experienced and energetic cadre of gardeners. The photo is from the wonderful Tucson Botanical Garden which completely overturned my previously dismissive view of cacti.



I'm **Martha Beauchamp** of North Bennington. Having worked in the HIV/AIDS field for years, in 2016 in one fell swoop, I retired early, sold my house and moved to Vermont where my 2 adult children and their families live. Family, Farm, and Fabric was my motto.



While I was city-raised, as a parent of 2 children growing vegetables/preserving enough food for almost the whole year was "the family years" way of connecting with the earth. When my youngest went off to college and I decided I didn't want to mow the lawn, the perennial flower phase set in. When my son and his girlfriend/now wife bought a farm, I would spend time helping them weed and plant. Moving here, I am slowly converting my way-too-big grass lawn into flower gardens and currently maintain gardens for a couple of local folks. Just made sense to become a Master Gardener.

I also have a fabric art business, The Quilted Jardin, that had been just part-time when I was employed. Between gardening for myself and others, making fabric pet portraits, and playing with my three grandchildren (1 down here; 2 at the farm in Shrewsbury), I manage to keep myself busy.

My name is **Nancy Felix**. I am a retired Orthopaedic Surgeon currently taking the Master Gardener class. I have a Master's degree in Plant Ecology and worked as a botanist on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska prior to going to Medical School. Now I have time to return to my interest in plants. My husband, Woody, took the Master Gardener Class several years ago. Since then we have started multiple gardening projects on our 12 acres in East Hoosick, including a large vegetable garden, apple trees, blueberries, raspberries, and native perennials to replace the too abundant lawn. I am looking forward to working on volunteer projects and learning as much as I can about gardening.



Hello! I'm **Megan Nuismer Herrington**. I recently moved to Vermont after spending the last 11 years in New Orleans. I earned my Masters of Public Health from Tulane University and have spent my career working towards equitable, sustainable and efficient food systems. I am currently serving as the District Director for the Vermont Department of Health Bennington District Office and am co-chair of the Bennington Hunger Council. While my gardening skills may be at beginner level, I am well versed in organizing, managing and creating spreadsheets and have volunteered as the Garden Admin Manager for the Bennington Community Garden. My hope is to become just as confident with a trowel and hose as I am with a laptop and creating agendas! I moved to Vermont with my husband Josh and our two senior pugs, Homer and Pumabelle. My hobbies/pastimes/interests include cooking, working on my house, costuming, watching movies, tag sales and thrifting and hanging out with my husband. I'm looking forward to adding gardening to that list!

Hello, I'm **Julia Rhode**. Aside from a bit of permaculture studies and hit-and-miss experiences on my own property, I had very little technical knowledge of gardening prior to taking this course. I have participated in the McWaters Park Permaculture Garden in North Bennington, in addition to continuously working on projects around my home. I also plan to be involved in new installations around the McCullough Library in North Bennington in the near future. As a food professional, I am particularly passionate about herbs. I look forward to reinforcing the knowledge recently gained online in the real world and joining the local community of gardeners, from the seasoned experts to those who are just getting started on their journey.



Hi! I am **Dottie Sundquist**. I moved from MA to Vermont in 1975 and earned a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UVM. After teaching in Bennington, VT and Cambridge, NY, I retired in 2015. For the past 40 years, I have lived in Sandgate in a handmade series of domes that I built which now boasts a 'normal' addition courtesy of my second husband, Bryan. Woodland gardening is my latest interest and I have spent a great deal of time during this stay-at-home period discovering the bones of an area on the property begging for a little more care. Perennial flower gardening has always held a soft spot in my heart. In September of 2015, the Village Trustees of Old Bennington contacted the UVM EMG program asking for advice on how best to reconfigure the Old First Church Marker Garden and my knowledge was put to the test. Little did I know where the endeavor would lead. I became immersed in the project and soon my dream of one day heading the Bennington Chapter was realized. Over the last few years, and with the help of longtime members, we have grown from seven to seventeen members with five projects and more in the works. I am honored to be a part of the UVM Extension Master Gardener program alongside a committed, knowledgeable and diverse group of like-minded people!

