

PCMGV October 2016

Field Trip Join us October 24, 2016 at Boston School Forest, 6pm

**Location: 5084 Lincoln Avenue,
Plover WI**

From I-39:

Take exit **151** for **WI-54 W/US-51
BUS**

Turn west onto **US-51 BUS N/WI-54
W/WI-54 W/Post Rd**

Turn south onto **Lincoln Ave-
nue**. The Forest is one mile ahead
on the right.

From Business 51:

Head south from Stevens Point to
Plover on **US-51 BUS**.

Continue on to **WI-54 E** for one mile.
Turn right on **Lincoln Avenue**. The
Forest is one mile ahead on the right

For several years the PCMGV have
donated to maintain this property,
establish new educational opportuni-
ties and provide support for their on-
going mission.

**The mission of the Boston School
Forest** is to provide the youth of
Stevens Point area schools educa-
tional opportunities that foster per-
sonal growth as well as awareness,
knowledge, and appreciation of the
natural world leading to sound stew-
ardship of the earth.

The Boston School Forest (BSF)
was established in 1937 when Mr.
Harry Boston donated 80 acres of

his cropland to the schools of Por-
tage County. For the next 30 years,
students planted over 111,000 trees
to establish a red pine plantation
with a few white pines and spruce
trees scattered throughout.
For nearly 80 years, BSF has em-
ployed the best forest management
practices available to create a sus-
tainable and healthy forest for future
generations of students. Cutting down
some older trees now opens up space
and resources for new trees to grow
up tall and strong. On August 25th,
2016 loggers began the 5th thinning of
Boston School Forest.
Although the forest will look disrupted
for the next couple years, nature has
an amazing way of renewing itself.



October 2016



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2016 Portage County Master Gardener Meeting Dates

**Board of Directors:
(Portage County Annex
Small Conference room)**

Nov, 14

General Membership:

(Portage County Annex Conference Rooms 1 & 2, 6 pm)

Oct. 24 (outdoors)

Nov. 28

Last garden task: Assess season, plan for next year

The growing season has ended for most of us. But before you cut back perennials and pull out annual flowers and vegetables, take time to review the season.

Fall is an excellent time to assess and plan for next year, while successes and challenges are fresh in your mind.

Stroll through each area of your garden. Make notes of what went well, what you'd do differently or avoid doing in the future.

Vegetables

You probably already have notes on what you planted and where. Complete your assessment documenting what yielded well. Which varieties would you plant again? Which would you avoid?

As in life, we learn more from our failures in the garden. What crops were disappointing?

Were the green beans too stringy?

Was any fruit diseased or crop eaten by rodents? You may need to build or reinforce a fence. Be sure to rotate vegetable families on a cycle of three or more years to reduce the chance of future disease and pest problems.

Did tomatoes have blight? Be sure to clean up all plant residue and burn or destroy blighted plants. Do not place in compost.

Annual flowers

Did you design captivating combinations? What may still be fresh in your mind will fade over winter. Jot a few notes about plant partners or color combos you want to repeat, or try next year. This may include new plants, ideas and combinations you've seen around town.

Did some flowers grown from seed start blooming in August or later? Consider starting seeds indoors next spring to jump-start the season.

Note which annuals are still blooming, if any. It's nice to have flowers on the shoulder seasons. Pansies, snapdragons, ornamental kale, alyssum, blue

(farinacea) salvia, geranium and pinks are among annuals that tolerate light frost.

Also note the locations and flowers first to freeze. Coleus, impatiens and begonias are killed by early frosts and can leave a hole or unattractive welcome. Plant these in areas where an early demise will be less noticeable or more protected from frost.

Perennials

What did well? What showed signs of disease or pest damage? Do you have daylilies, ornamental allium, monarda or other perennials that are beautiful in bloom but that quickly becoming unattractive? Make plans to tuck perennials that decline behind others that look good throughout the season. Keep perennial edges fresh with attractive foliage regardless of bloom.

Are clumps so crowded that blooming has declined? Did some perennials grow too tall or wide for the space you allotted? Did color shades you thought would blend actually clash? Do you have too much of the same color blooming at the same time in the same area? Make notes on which perennials to divide or move next spring -- or summer if they bloom in spring.

It's probably too late to divide perennials and give them time to establish yet this fall. But if you have plants and hardy bulbs awaiting a home, plant them. Sink pots to the soil line to overwinter them if you won't have time to complete designing a space.

What hasn't lived up your expectations? Many of us acquire perennials and landscaping challenges when we move into new homes. Life is too short to continue growing perennials we don't love. Consider removing and replacing them with your favorites. Start a wish list.

Did you have successive bloom times? If that is a goal, note through the season when gaps occurred. Make a list of perennials that bloom during those times that meet your space and light needs. Or plant hardy bulbs through October for bloom next year.

Did you see a captivating combination of perennials in another yard, public garden or magazine? Add it to your wish list, or look around. You may already have similar perennials or others with similar texture or color in your beds.

Evaluate future planting locations. Consider preparing new gardens now, after other fall garden chores are done. Kill grass or weeds using the lasagna method of layering cardboard, newspaper, compost, mulch or hay, and you'll have the start of a new garden by next spring. Or, cover the area with black plastic. Or simply dig in.

Did your flower beds demand more maintenance time than you can (or want to) spend? High-maintenance perennials include those needing staking, regular deadheading or cutting back after bloom. Consider replacing some with perennials or shrubs that require less maintenance.

Shrubs and trees

You can continue planting shrubs as long as the ground is workable. Cooler weather means less stress on transplants. Because the soil temperatures are warmer than the air, plant roots still have several weeks to get established.

Plan for winter. Make a list of plants that need winter protection from cold, snow and animals or rodents. Place stakes in ground before it freezes and gather materials to install when the time is right. Wait for the dormant season to prune.

Note which perennials, vines, trees and shrubs are providing autumn interest in your yard or others. Changing foliage color, seed heads, berries and stems make many plants attractive for multiple seasons.

Now, give yourself a hand for the beauty and bounty you produced through the season.

By Nick Schultz,
PCMGV



A YMCA Garden Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made the YMCA garden program a continued success this year. Even with our problems of disappearing vegetables we are at 899 pounds of produce donated to the Giving Garden program. Most of which went to the Lincoln Center, YMCA young families, or in the stomachs of our students.

This year we continued to educate the Kinder Kare students every Tuesday morning. We had 2 groups that would spend 15 minutes in the class (remember these kids are 4-5 years old) and then switch to outside. Our dedicated MGV either taught a lesson in the classroom or reinforced that lesson outside in the garden. We had a great year.

The YMCA Farm to School program took care of the elementary program and utilized the garden on Thursdays.

Thank you to my weeders. When I was overwhelmed by problems in the beds and vegetables one MGV in particular saved my sanity by weeding the entire grounds around all the beds. A SUPER MG Volunteer.

Lastly, I want to thank Kathy Goulet who was my partner throughout the summer.

The YMCA has stepped up and taken care of our unwelcome guest in the garden. They were also very supportive this year and we have a good partnership.

I look forward to next year continuing to learn, educate and share. I hope you all will consider continuing to be involved with the Y Garden. I wish you could be there when I take vegetables to the Lincoln Center. Now they say, "Here comes Lynn." "Oh, she has celery! Or I love Kohlrabi." I had one woman hug me and thank me for helping her lose 60 pounds and she is now off the oxygen.

Thank you, thank you, thank you

Lynn Caine

**2016 Presenter Schedule
(All meetings held at 6 pm)**

October 24	Boston School Forest (Field Trip)
November 28	Christmas Party, Scholarship Recipients



Committee Co-Chairpersons

Bylaws

Cindy Bredow
Open

Chicago Bus Trip

Bob Rausch
Sally Prideaux

Display

Rita Kozlowski

Educational Programs

Lynn Caine
Dianne Somers

Farmers Market

Lori Teuchert

Flower Beds

Margaret Parsons

Golden Sands Home Show

Sharon Omernick
Lynn Ligman

Membership

Chrismary Pacyna
Sandy O'Brien

Newsletter

Alicia Razvi
Open

Plant Sale

Chere Schmit
Walt Rasmussen

Publicity (Facebook)

Shelley Binder

Rosholt Fair

Todd Teuchert

Garden Dreams

Sally Prideaux
Diane Dietrich

YMCA Giving Gardens

Lynn Caine

Garden Parade

Dorothy Steuerwald

Funds/Grants

Cindy Bredow
Open

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WANTED

Articles and Photos you would like to share in the MGV monthly newsletter! Please send items to **Alicia Razvi** (aliciarazvi@gmail.com) by the tenth of the month to be included in the next newsletter. I would love to include seasonal pictures and area specific tips!

**Submission deadline:
November 10, 2016**

**SEND ME YOUR BEAUTIFUL
GARDEN SHOTS!**

Please send any address or e-mail changes to:
Denise Rocha:

denise.rocha@ces.uwex.edu
or 715-346-1316

Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers Meeting Minutes

Preceding the meeting, the PCMGVs held their annual Plant Exchange. Members brought in different plants or gardening items from their personal gardens and explained what they brought.

Then the rest of those present chose plants to take home to their own gardens.

The September 26, 2016 meeting of the Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers was called to order by Lynn Caine at 6:30 P.M. at the Portage County Annex.

Those present were: Margaret Bau, Cindy Bredow, Donald Caine, Lynn Caine, Ginny Carlton, Jean Danielson, Diane Dieterich, Dan Goulet, Kathleen Goulet, Rose Grych, Angie Hauer, Jane Kellerman, Rita Kozlowski, Kathy Kruthoff, Debbie Kunst, Lynn Ligman, Marily Malcolm, Sylvia Masters, Sandra Newby, Carole Olson, Sharon Omernick, Chrismary Pacyna, Margaret Parsons, Rose Marie Piekarski, Sally Prideaux, Walt Rasmussen, Rebecca Roberts, Chere Schmit, Don Schmit, Nick Schultz, Dianne Somers, Dorothy Steuerwald, Lori Teuchert, Jill Ziehr, Judy Yenter, Gail Zalewski, Richard Zimmerman, and Philip Czapinski.

The **Minutes** from August were approved as distributed.

The **Treasurer's** report was given by Lori Teuchert. She reminded members that vouchers for 2016 expense reimbursement need to be submitted by December 31, 2016. The 2017 budget is being developed by the Board of Directors. It will be presented for discussion at the October meeting and voted upon at the November

meeting. Dianne Sommers gave a summary of the recently completed audit. All is in good order.

Old Business:

Copies: UW-Extension will be charging our budget accounts for copies made or materials used. This gives us a more accurate account of what each committee is spending.

E-mails: If you receive any unwanted e-mails, either block the sender, or request to be deleted from the e-mail list.

Board Members: 3 Board positions are available for 2017.

Committee Reports:

- **Bus Trips:** Sally Prideau will look into possible bus trips to Garden Expo in Madison in February and/or the Chicago Flower Show in March.
- **Education / Programs:** Next meeting will be held in November to plan for 2017
- **Farmer's Market:** Lori Teuchert thanked all the volunteers from this past summer.
- **Flower Beds:** Help is needed now for the fall cleanup. Watch for e-mails about work days. Also, plans are beginning for the 2017 gardening season. Contact Margaret Parsons if interested in working on any flower bed.
- **Funds / Grants:** Cindy Bredow shared a thank you note received from the Boston School Forest for our recent grant. She also reported a donation request from a SPASH student for her participation in the National Junior Horticulture Competition in Pennsylva-

nia. The donation was approved by the committee members.

- **Garden Dreams:** Diane Dieterich and Sally Prideaux gave an update on this scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the Jensen Center in Amherst.

Cost is \$30 and includes speakers (Diana Alfuth, Buzz Vahradian, and Neil Diboll) along with a hot lunch.

- **Garden Parade:** Dorothy Steuerwald has accepted the co-chairperson position. She informed the group about the current search for gardens for the 2017 event and welcomed any suggestions from members.

New committee members are welcome to attend the next planning meeting scheduled for January 11 at 4:00.

- **Golden Sands Home and Garden Show:** Scheduled for February 17-19 at Sentry World.

- **Membership:** Members were reminded to send their Renewal Forms, Timesheets, and \$15 dues to either Chrismary Pacyna or Sylvia Masters by October 1. These items may also be left at the UW-Extension office. Contact Chrismary or Sylvia with any questions.

- **Newsletter:** Please send any articles or photos to Alicia Razvi by October 10 for inclusion in the October Newsletter.

- **Plant Sale:** Chere Schmit announced that members are able to order flats of annuals from Heath Farms at a discount. A list will be available in November.

- **Rosholt Fair:** Lori Teuchert thanked the volunteers. Richard Zimmerman volunteered each day at the event.

- **YMCA Gardens:** Lynn Caine reported that the garden produced over 864 pounds of

(September Minutes Cont.)

Master Gardener Survey

New Business:

- **Speaker system:** A volunteer is needed to manage and set this up for each of our meetings. Contact Lynn Caine if willing to do this.
- **2017 Master Gardener Training:** Ken Schroeder has forms available for PCMGVs to sign up to share information with those taking the Level 1 training in 2017. Contact Ken for a list of dates, times, and possible topics.
- **November meeting:** The meeting place has been changed to the Multi-Purpose room of Lincoln Center.

WIMGA report: Lynn Caine reported that the annual face-to face meeting will be held on October 15. She has applied for WIMGA grants for the YMCA gardens and for a new display board to be used for education purposes.

UW-Extension: Ken asked members to consider participating in a "Lunch and Learn" session on various gardening topics. Contact Ken if interested. Level 1 Training will also be offered in Marathon, Marquette and Waushara Counties during spring of 2017.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, October 24 at 6:00** at the Boston School Forest.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Following the meeting, members shared stories of their gardening experiences during the summer of 2016. Tales of successful growth of tasty, blight resistant tomato varieties, a trombone squash, and an update on the Regional Master Gardener Conference (held in Wisconsin Dells) were highlights.

Continuing Education: Plant Exchange and "Show and Tell" = 45 minutes (.75)

Submitted by,

Chrismary Pacyna, PCMGV Secretary

Last week, you received a message about a national study of Extension Master Gardeners. The University of Georgia and Iowa State University are working together on a research study entitled, "A National Study of Motivations of Extension Master Gardeners." The results of this study have the potential to benefit all of us, and we need your help to make it happen! Mike and I encourage you to take the survey; as an incentive, you can claim 1/2 hour of volunteer service if you complete the survey!

The survey uses Qualtrics survey software to present the questions and collect responses. You can respond to the survey using a tablet or computer. The link below will take you directly to the online survey where you simply click your responses or type in short answers. Completion of this online Motivations survey should take about 30 minutes. To participate in the Motivations study, simply click on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/MasterGardenerMotivations>

You can share this link with other MGVs, whether they are certified or not, active or inactive. The more people that complete the survey, the better we will understand why people join the program and what we can do to make it an even better experience. Each state and county that participates will receive data from the study, so our state and local coordinators will learn important things about EMG volunteers and the volunteer activities that they do. Thank you, in advance, for your participation!

Wisconsin Master Gardener Program

University of Wisconsin - Extension

Mike Maddox, MG Program Director

[\(608\) 265-4536](tel:6082654536)

email: mike.maddox@ces.uwex.edu

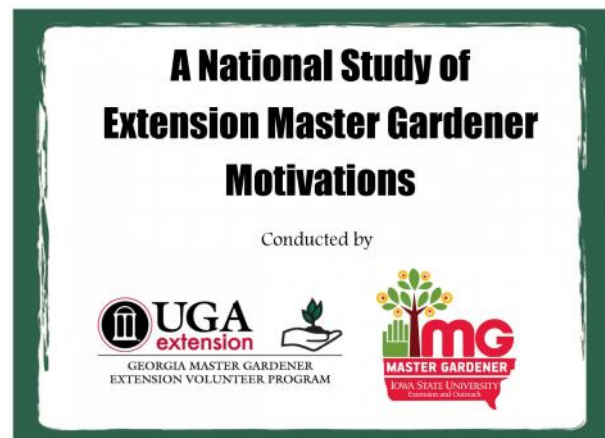
Susan Mahr, MG Program Coordinator

[\(608\) 265-4504](tel:6082654504)

email: semahr@wisc.edu

Visit the WI Master Gardener website at:

<http://wimastergardener.org>



PCMGV Gives and Gives

The PCMGV recently dispersed \$1,500 to the Portage County Boys and Girls Club Green Thumb Program and \$1,500 to the Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership of Portage County Giving Gardens Giving Gardens Program. The proceeds were from the 19th Annual Garden Parade Quilt and Garden Container Raffles held in July. The mission of the Master Gardeners is to help educate the public about gardening and natural resources. Katie Rettler and Carole Jansing co-chairmen of the event, feel “what better way to educate the public about gardening than through the children”.



Green Thumb Gardening Program

The Boys & Girls Club of Portage County’s Green Thumb gardening program has been active for over 10 years. Now, with eight different Club sites across Portage County, the Boys & Girls Club has 5 active gardens. Club members are able to work with UW-Extension volunteers and our Club Health & Life Skills specialists to tend to the garden two days a week for at least one hour each day

With the garden located directly behind the Plover site, club members have been able to tend to the garden two days a week for at least one hour each day. The activities in the garden vary between planting, fertilizing, watering, weeding, and eventually harvesting the fruits (or vegetables) of their labor! The Club’s Green Thumb program is designed to help members learn gardening skills, to enjoy working in the garden, and to teach Club members life skills about eating healthy.

To help the Club members understand the benefits and nutritional value that can be gained through our garden, the kids even make salsa and salads from their harvest. Our Health & Life Skills specialists also discuss with Club members the importance of a balanced diet and fresh food. We love watching the kids learn and grow through what they learn during our Green Thumb gardening program!

Garden Dreams – A Saturday with Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers

Portage County Master Gardener volunteers are once again hosting **Garden Dreams** at the Lettie W. Jensen Community Center in Amherst on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Registration will run from 7:30 a.m. until 8:25 a.m. The presentations will begin at 8:25 a.m. and will end around 3:00 p.m. Cost for this event is again \$30 and will include all three presentations as well as a hot catered lunch from Ambrosia Pub and Grill in Amherst.

Three presentations are planned for this day. The first is with Diana Alfuth (returning for a second year) on **Landscape Design, Tying it All Together**. Diana is a UW-Extension Horticulture Educator in Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties. She has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota and has been with UW-Extension for over 17 years. She also teaches Sustainable Landscape Design at UW-River Falls. The presentation will

explore how to tie landscape components together through principles of design, focal points, lines and use of plants. Diana will give us the tools we need to look at a gardening project as a whole and create an overall, beautiful harmonious space.

The second presentation is with Buzz Vahradian (seriously, that's his name) on **Beekeeping with Buzz**. Buzz has kept bees for over 23 years operating beekeeping business as a sideline: V's Bees, LLC. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a major in Forest Management and a minor in Soil Science. He and his wife Marcia sell honey and are consulting foresters. Buzz will provide a thorough overview for beginners with an interest in starting a hive and for others who are just fascinated by the lives of these super organisms.

Our afternoon presentation is on **Prairie and Savanna Plants for Pollinator Gardens** with Neil

Diboll. A pioneer in the native plant industry and recognized internationally as an expert in native plant community ecology, Neil has guided the growth of Prairie Nursery in Westfield for 30 years. He has dedicated his life to the propagation of native plants and their promotion as uniquely beautiful, ecologically beneficial and sustainable solutions for landscapes and gardens. *In 2013 Neil was the recipient of the Great American Gardeners Award from the American Horticultural Society.* Neil's love and enthusiasm for native plants and their habitats is contagious! Neil will highlight the showiest and best-behaved prairie plants for creating a wide variety of prairie gardens in small areas that will attract our native pollinators.

Please mark your calendars for this very special event. More information about this event and a link to the brochure will be in the November PCMGV newsletter.

Master Gardens In October



2017 Portage County Master Gardener Volunteer Training

**Brochures
& Registration
Materials
Available NOW!**

To register people can

- Call 715-346-1316
- Use this short link
www.goo.gl/tXq8S4
- Scan this QR code



Class Information

- ◆ January 25 - April 19, 2017
- ◆ Classes are Wednesday evenings from 6 - 9 PM
- ◆ Classes will be held at the Portage County Annex Building, 1462 Strongs Avenue
- ◆ Application Deadline is January 11, 2017
- ◆ Presenters will be UW-Extension Educators, Faculty or Horticultural Specialists.
- ◆ Enrollment is first come, first served and limited to 50 people.
- ◆ The course fee is \$150 for individuals and \$165 for two persons at the same address who will share the materials.
- ◆ Course graduates who volunteer a minimum of 24 hours before December 31, 2016 are eligible for a rebate of \$75. *(1 rebate for 2 person household rate)*

**Help increase
our
membership!**



2017 Activity & Event Schedule

January 21 ✨ Garden Dreams

Multiple Guest Presenters
Lettie W. Jensen Community Center, Amherst, WI

February 17 - 19 ✨ Golden Sands Home & Garden Show

PCMGV Display
Sentry World Complex, Stevens Point

May 20 ✨ Plant Sale

8-11 am Portage County Business Park
@ Rettler Corporation parking lot

July 14 - 15 ✨ Garden Parade

Friday, 2-7 pm, Saturday, 10 am-4 pm
\$10 in advance

June - September ✨ Stevens Point Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 7 am - Noon

September 1 - 4 ✨ Rosholt Fair

PCMGV Display
Rosholt Fair Grounds

For details or more information call 715-346-1316

✨
or find us on the web

✨
www.portage.uwex.edu

✨
www.facebook.com/pcmgv



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Across the Desk @ UWEX

I received this email from Glenn Nice, Manager of the UW Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) Program.

Ever get questions where knowing how a herbicide might act in the soil or knowing the volatility of a herbicide might come in handy? Possibly wanting to compare two herbicides to identify which one may move in the soil faster than the other?

The National Pesticide Information Network has released an interesting web tool that provides herbicide properties. This tool provides the basic properties of most of the herbicide active ingredients on the market. The tool can be found here:

<http://npic.orst.edu/HPT/>

Though this email was directed at Certified Applicators who apply restricted use pesticides, I asked Glenn if the site mentioned might be helpful for Master Gardeners. He said yes, it could be helpful, but wanted to clarify, "A common misconception of chemistry is that if it kind of looks the same, it is the same. Slight changes to molecules or to formulations in chemistry can produce different results. For example 2,4-D has several formulations as amines and esters in various types of salts. These different formulations can have an impact on how the compound acts. Different formulations can act differently in the environment. To effectively use this site it is important the gardener have a basic understanding of herbicide active ingredient; just because it says 2,4-D, it does not mean all formulations behave the same way."

While MGVs do not need to be Certified Applicators, the UW PAT program website has some interesting information and links including: Pesticides & Homeowners, Tips for Proper Pesticide Application, Protecting your Pet Against Pesticide Poisoning as well as links to the PAT Chat Newsletter, a quarterly newsletter in which I normally find an article or two with interesting and relevant information. You can visit the PAT website at www.ipcm.wisc.edu/pat/

Thanks for taking the time to read this article, I hope you enjoyed it! ~ Denise

*Hello All, This is the first in a series of short articles about interesting emails, questions or other relevant information that has come across my desk, which may be of interest to MGVs. If you would like more information on the topic, feel free to contact me.
Denise Rocha*



Portage County

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Ken Schroeder, Agriculture Agent
Nathan Sandwick, Community Resource Development Agent
Jill Hicks, Administrator, Food Wise Program
Mary Higley, Food Wise Program Educator
Joanna Lickel, Food Wise Support Staff
Penny Schmitt, Food Wise Program Educator

Support Staff

Denise Rocha, Agriculture/Family Living/Reception
Ryan Nelson, 4-H/CNRD/Administration



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

**Portage County
Master Gardener Association**

UW Master Gardener Website:

www.wimastergardener.org

Horticulture Website:

www.hort.uwex.edu

Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab Website:

www.pddc.wisc.edu

Insect Diagnostic Lab Website:

www.labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/

Wildlife Ecology & Damage Mgt Website:

www.wildlifedamage.uwex.edu/

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