Every state has a Master Gardener program. The Door County chapter was formed in 1995.

Our Mission Statement:
The Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc., in partnership with UW-Extension, shall strive to make a positive impact on horticulture in our community through education, community outreach, and stewardship of our environment.

Why Join?
Novices as well as knowledgeable gardeners are invited to become involved in our organization. With an emphasis on life-long learning as well as volunteerism, we are very proud of our educational opportunities and the many service projects in which we are involved.

Our Education Committee is one of the most active in the State. Each year we present several programs to our members as well as the public. The goal of these programs is to increase our horticultural knowledge and depth of understanding on a wide variety of topics. We’re also the only chapter in Wisconsin who is maintaining an educational show garden - The Garden Door.

The other part of our focus is our service to the community and we offer many service opportunities. We have a wide range of projects throughout the county. For example, some of our service hours have involved

- Maintaining The Garden Door – the educational & display garden mentioned above.
- Planning and planting flowers and bulbs outside of local public buildings
- Helping with our annual Plant Sale which funds our programs and The Garden Door
- Attending DCMGA committee or board meetings / serving on a committee or the board
- Helping to plan and/or present an educational program

There are many opportunities to express your interest in gardening!

Who Can Join Master Gardeners?
Again, novice or experienced gardeners are welcome to apply. Acceptance into class is based on both a background check through the UW Extension system (a form will be included with your application) and then a lottery of all eligible applications received by the deadline. Individuals become certified in this volunteer organization of the U.W. Extension Service if they completed (within a training year) 36 hours of authorized education; and perform 24 hours of volunteer service. There will be ample opportunity within the training period to complete the required hours. Once the official training is concluded, to remain a Master Gardener Volunteer in Good Standing, a member must complete 24 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education annually.

Every year the members of The Door County Master Gardener Association, Inc meet to define our goals for the coming year and will occasionally define some of those goals as primary or of the utmost importance to the Association. It is expected that all members in good standing will be committed to participating in the activities that will help us to reach those goals.
How the Training Program Works
Our program is not a college botany course. We provide you with 2 manuals of resource information. Your study of them will enhance your training as well as your horticultural knowledge and help you to pass your exam. While we encourage you to read the material, it is not the major focus of the training program. Our focus will be to provide a setting to attain a broader knowledge of horticulture through shared experiences and to orient you to our Association and the volunteer work we do. We’ll bring in area experts and other Master Gardener volunteers to share their experience and knowledge through presentations, discussions, round tables, panels and hands on workshops. We expect this year’s class members to attend our scheduled public educational programs, as well as those offered only to our Association members plus complete the Mandatory Reporter online course for reporting child abuse. We’ll visit local people involved in horticulture, work with the volumes of information in the training material notebooks, learn about state level resources and staff and evaluate and plan some of the details of the training program. Most of these activities and classes will take place in Sturgeon Bay on Tuesday evenings or Saturdays during the day.

The training program will start in January and most of the formal classes will conclude in May. It’s very important to understand that this will mean a large commitment of time over the next 9 months. Once the open-book take-home exam is taken and passed, and the volunteer hour requirements are met, trainees will be considered certified master gardener volunteers.

If you’re interested in having a mentor, a volunteer certified Master Gardener mentor could be assigned to you. Their role would be to act as a resource, source of support, and to help trainees understand and become involved in our organization. Please let the DCMGA Training Committee Chair know that you are interested in this feature. If you find yourself involved in an activity that you feel you need more one on one assistance with, please let one of the committee members know so that we can have another member assist you.

Fees: (subject to change) $70 for an individual. $100 for two persons who share the same address and will share education materials. Each person must fill out an application.

The non-refundable fee is charged to cover the cost of materials. This includes over 500 pages of valuable reference materials, current year’s membership dues in Door County Masters Gardeners Association, Inc and the Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (WIMGA), and other expenses. This fee will be collected on the first night of class (Checks should be made payable to Door County Master Gardeners Association or DCMGA). If this is a problem please let the Committee Chair know that in advance. If you would like to apply for a scholarship, please contact the UW Extension office for an application.

For more information on DCMGA, check out our website at www.demga.org. The current issue of our comprehensive newsletter as well as previous ones can be found there as well as some references on what we do and enjoy. For any other questions or concerns, please contact our Training Committee Chair, Rod Bohn. He can be reached by phone at 743-5510 or erbohn@charter.net by email.

The completed application and background check forms must be received by the UW-Extension office in the Government Center (old Door County Courthouse at 421 Nebraska St., Sturgeon Bay WI 54235) by 12 Noon the last Tuesday in November. [Office Hours are 8:00 to 4:30 Monday-Friday. The Extension Office phone number is (920) 746-2260.]
If you are accepted, you will be notified by second week of December and will be expected to attend the first class meeting at the Peninsular Research Station in Sturgeon Bay. The first class will be held the beginning of January (date/time to be announced). A tentative schedule of those classes will be forwarded to you before that date.
Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc (DCMGA)  
Certified Master Gardener Training Program Application Form

Name of Applicant______________________________________________________________

*Name of Co-Applicant (if any) _________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________________

Phone____________________ E-Mail ______________________________________________

Fee(s): (subject to change) (Fees will be collected at the first class)

______ $70 Single

*______ $100 Two persons at the same address, sharing materials

* Each person must fill out an application.

1. Please explain why you wish to become a Master Gardener Volunteer. List the ways you feel you’ll best be able to contribute to the group.

2. In future years, one of the requirements to maintain your certification is to contribute 24 hours of volunteer service. We have a wish that at least some portion of that be spent in maintaining the Garden Door Educational Garden and/or volunteering for events held there. We also know that free time varies for everyone. Considering the amount you have available, roughly how many volunteer hours do you think you would want to contribute annually?

3. Please list things you enjoy doing that might be of benefit to the advancement of our group’s Mission Statement.

4. What DCMGA public programs have you attended in the past?

5. Are there any areas of gardening in which you would especially like mentoring (propagation, landscaping, plant choices, meeting other members, having someone to go to programs with, etc)?
6. The following topics will give us an idea of areas in which you might be active in DCMGA. 
Consider this just a starting point, since we’ll be explaining these possibilities for you within the training program.

**Rate the topics according to your Interest / Anticipated Activity Level:**
1 = Highest interest  2=Some interest  3=Possible interest  (Blank = No interest)

To fulfill my EDUCATION HOURS:

- [ ] Attend DCMG Public Education Programs
- [ ] Visit Gardens
- [ ] Attend Area / State / Tri-State Conferences
- [ ] View selected videos about gardening
- [ ] Attend Roundtable Discussions on Gardening

To fulfill my SERVICE HOURS:

- [ ] Help with Plant Sale
- [ ] Help the Garden Door Committee
- [ ] Help the Finance Committee
- [ ] Help the Training Program Committee
- [ ] Help the Stewardship Committee
- [ ] Help the Education Committee plan programs
- [ ] Help the Stewardship Committee
- [ ] Join the governing Board
- [ ] Help Publicity Committee
- [ ] Give a tour of a garden
- [ ] Be a Q&A panel member
- [ ] Help with videography / photography
- [ ] Represent DCMGA at State
- [ ] Help conduct a workshop
- [ ] Work in Garden Door Display Garden
- [ ] Help in community gardens
- [ ] Help set up public programs
- [ ] Help control invasive plants
- [ ] Help with a youth gardening project
- [ ] Participate in DCMGA program radio shows (i.e.: WDOR with Eddy Allen)
- [ ] Other: ________________________________

By signing this application I have agreed to attend 36 hours of training AND contribute a total of at least 24 hours of volunteer service in Door County Master Gardeners Association approved project(s). Upon acceptance into the Door County Master Gardeners Association Training program, I also agree to completing the necessary paperwork to do a criminal background check. This is a requirement of UW Extension system and the Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association.

I understand that once I complete the required training educational hours, pass the final exam, and contribute 24 hours of volunteer work, I will be a certified Master Gardener Volunteer in Good Standing.

I further understand that this covers my initial training year and in order to maintain my status in future years as a Master Gardener Volunteer in Good Standing, I will need to annually complete 24 hours of volunteer service, 10 hours of continuing education hours and pay membership dues as designated by the Board to remain a Master Gardener Volunteer in Good Standing.

Signed____________________________________ Date__________________________

The completed registration form must be received by **12 Noon the last Tuesday in November** at the UW-Extension office in the Government Center (old Door County Courthouse, 421 Nebraska St., in Sturgeon Bay). Mailing Address: 421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay WI 54235 Phone: 920-746-2260