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Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WALWORTH COUNTY

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Bennu Organics

262-220-1251 ~ BennuOrganics@gmail.com

On Wednesday February 13, we will have our "Valentine themed" pot luck at Horticulture Hall at 330 Broad Street Lake Geneva, beginning at 6:30pm. At 7pm our speaker, Rae Punzel, who currently resides in Kenosha is a dual-degreed horticulturalist with multiple certifications. She owns her own business called Bennu Organics, LLC and provides garden consultations, designs and installations, and has traveled to horticulture destinations around the world to study. Her topic on February 13 will be "**February Garden Activities**" and will cover everything from vegetable, flower and fruit gardens to simple things you can do from your sofa. Some of the activities included will be what to prune, start and plant this month as well as maintenance items that can be completed before our busy season starts.

Many thanks to our former board members for their devoted support to our group! Janet Yakes, Jean Curran, Sharon Bird and Kathleen Karcher!

Our new board members are shown at the top of this notice with their e-mails. [Nina Ruskey](mailto:Nina.Ruskey@gmail.com), [Suzanne Markus](mailto:Suzanne.Markus@gmail.com), [Sandy Schwartz](mailto:Sandy.Schwartz@gmail.com) and [Sherry Mathews](mailto:Sherry.Mathews@gmail.com). Feel free to e-mail them with any questions or concerns.

[Brenda Williams](mailto:Brenda.Williams@gmail.com) will take over doing the meeting notices from now on, as well as serve as our Sunshine person (sending cards to members for important family events.) bwill1998@gmail.com

Our Programs Coordinators are: [Sara Nason](mailto:Sara.Nason@gmail.com) saranason@gmail.com, [Mike Schwabe](mailto:Mike.Schwabe@elknet.net) michaels@elknet.net and [Liz Smith](mailto:Liz.Smith@live.com) lizlu@live.com **They want to hear from you!** At the last meeting, we received a list of topics for meetings we have done at Hort Hall or during the summers when we go "off site." Some have been done in the past and could bear repeating if enough are interested. Give Sara your opinion on scheduling anything shown on the attached list or new ideas you have for this year.

[Deanna Stirmel](mailto:Deanna.Stirmel@yahoo.com) dstirmel@yahoo.com is our State WIMGA Rep. She keeps us updated on state information and gave us some info at the business meeting. They are looking for "members at large" to attend 2 meetings a year in Hancock, WI (middle of the state) from 9am-3pm in April and October. **Let her know** if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity! On July 1 UW Ext will merge with the UW System. Changes are in the works and the logo of our MG group will be changing...stay tuned! Our Education Director has been approved so the hiring will begin in mid Feb. It will be an 80% position so we will have 3 of 4 days and Rock County will get one day...Will let you know when finalized. We will have a state convention every other year opposite a leadership conference. WI will host the Midwest Conference in 2024!

We need help setting up tables and chairs, making coffee, putting out dinnerware and cleaning up at all Horticulture Hall meetings. (good way to earn a half hour of volunteer time!) Please try to come early to help...about 5:45pm so meetings can start on time. (Most times, everyone stays to help clean up!) We also need a "supplies person" to keep track of supplies and replenish as needed for dinners. Let Nina know if you are willing to take on this volunteer op!!