

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

October 2016

WCMGV Program Information

Garlic: The history, how to grow and use October 25, 6:00 pm: MARS

Have you ever thought of growing your own garlic? It is as easy as any other perennial herb if you know how. This program will be one to get that interested gardener started. Please consider bringing your favorite garlic treat or recipe to share! Our presenter will be Brigitte Varga, a Master Gardener from Juneau County.



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7:00 pm BUSINESS MEETING AND MEMBER SEED EXCHANGE

As you have been putting your gardens to bed for the season consider saving some seeds for the seed exchange. You don't have to have fancy containers, any old envelope will do, even recycled ones! The important part is to label and put a short planting instruction on. Your fellow gardeners always appreciate some interesting seeds.

[Garlic, Allium Sativum article on UW-Extension website.](#)

Florida Everglades Presentation

Nov 15, MARS

7:00 pm: Business Meeting and election of new officers

8:00 pm: Jan Sabin's Florida Everglades presentation was replaced last year due to ill health so we are pleased to have her back to good health and willing to give it another try! Many of our members have not had the good fortune to try gardening in a different zone so Jan's presentation will be a treat. Especially in November!

MG Jan Sabin will present a photo tour of her 2014 trip to the Florida Everglades. Invite a friend to come and learn about the Everglades delicate ecosystem as Jan brings Florida to Wisconsin for the evening. Bald Cypress, Spanish moss and Orchids, Oh my! Jan will share many facts and photos of the flora she found in the Florida Everglades. Come learn about "Walking Trees", the River of Grass, Strangler Fig trees and foliar mineral leaching.

- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ Chili Recipes
- ◆ September WCMGV membership meeting minutes
- ◆ Garden Visions 2017
- ◆ Tomato Contest Winner
- ◆ Christmas Tree Walk
- ◆ News from Matt Lippert
- ◆ October Garden Guide



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From the President's Notebook

Hope you are enjoying the beauty of color throughout our State, before the "white stuff" begins to fall. Bob and I enjoyed an adventure/color road trip to Jackson County, recently. We hiked the woodlands in the area and enjoyed the beauty of the backwoods. We had high hopes of catching a glimpse of the elusive Elk who now make their home there, but only saw

tracks of where they had been! Maybe next time, we will see the real thing!

Now that your volunteer hour sheets are turned in, **it is time to renew your membership for 2017.**

The WCMGV Annual Membership Renewal Forms/Survey Forms will be available at the October 25 meeting. The forms will be mailed to those members not present at the meeting. Forms accompanied by dues are to be sent by November 15 to WCMGV Treasurer. Since the membership meeting is on November 15, you may bring your forms and dues to that meeting or mail to Barb Herreid, WCMGV Treasurer, 946 S Archers Way, Nekoosa, WI 54457. Please take the time to review the form/ survey very carefully as many changes have been made on the form. There are extra pages which provide an explanation of what is required for each committee/team. Volunteering to serve on a committee or team is a convenient way to earn required volunteer hours. This year you will find many alternative areas that do not require heavy lifting or digging in the dirt. Please give some serious thought about what areas you really plan to work on in 2017. Sign-up for only those projects, committees, teams that you truly have the time to devote to as we all owe it to the chairpersons, team/project leaders to provide them with a true picture of how many volunteers they can depend on to assist with the goals of each respective area. The most important thing to remember is that in order to complete the goals of each area, the leaders depend on the volunteers who sign-up. The information from the forms/surveys will be organized by topics and made available to the membership at the first meeting in March 2017. At that time, members may review the various areas for which they signed up and make necessary changes at that time. This survey also gives "you, the member" a chance to express your personal interests! It is your opportunity to let the program and other committees know your interests. List topics you wish to know more about, helpful comments, ideas, and suggestions to improve the WCMGV organization. If you have any questions about the dues form, please feel free to contact me, I will do my best to help you in any way that I can.

Peace comes dropping slow...Dropping from the veils of morning...To where the cricket sings!

William Butler Yeats

Happy Autumn and listen for the crickets...*Ruth Cline*

Membership Business: Nov. 15, at 7 p.m.

The November meeting will include the election of new officers for our 2017 year. A position for Director for the northern area is open and a position of Director for the south area is open. The terms of both Mary Czaja, Director from the North, and Jan Sabin, Director from the South, expire at year end. They have both chosen not to seek election to another office.

Mary and Jan: Thank you for your past dedication to WCMGV.



Photos by Tom Ptak of the Marshfield Maple Fall Fest Plant Sale on September 17, 2016

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers

First English Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; September 27, 2016; 1 Hour Continuing Education.

Meeting was called to order at 6:07pm. Ruth Cline announced that we would interrupt the meeting and start the Dehydration Program once Sarah Siegel (UW Ext) arrived. Sue Wilford is on vacation.

Minutes 8/23/16—Paula Klevene moved to accept past minutes as written, seconded by Lynn Bushmaker, motion carried.

Financial report: Given by Barb Herreid. The Plant Sale made a couple hundred dollars more than was budgeted. Motion to accept financial report as presented was made by Audrey Brundidge. Seconded by Peg Harvey.

Old Business/Announcements: Info Table/sign-in/sign-up/information: Sign in sheets for attendance and to bring refreshments for the Fall Seminar are on the front table. Apollonia Virsnieks brought surplus gooseneck gourds to share.

Fall Plant Sale: Mary Czaja reported that **Friday** was soggy but better **Saturday** and **Sunday**. Sales were down from last year but total profit was \$1,612.57. Mary Czaja thanked everyone and was impressed with the volume of plants/materials from South Wood County. Mickey Erickson made 2 or 3 trips from Rapids. Roxanne Tomkowiak, Famia Marx, and Joanne Wilkinson did an excellent job in Mary's absence. Carolyn Schulein and Carol Tomke did a great job arranging dried flower displays. The aprons and bags went over well. Ruth Cline has access to more bags for Denise Larson's team to make bags and aprons. Mary brought surplus items to the meeting. The dried arrangements are free. The Scarecrows, boxes and other items are for sale..

Fall Seminar: Saturday Oct 15, 8:30 - 12:00, UW-Marshfield. Mickey passed around a sheet to sign up only if you haven't signed up already. Kate Heiber will speak on "*Dormancy Brings Life and Beauty*" and Chris Hamerla will speak on "*Invasive species affecting water gardens, rain gardens, wetlands, and shorelines*". All posters have been distributed. There are a few envelopes left with the detail sheets. Deb Ostrowski will not be at the Fall Seminar to work on refreshments. She needs volunteers to retrieve, deliver, set up, take down and return the coffee pots, cups, napkins etc. She also brought a white box of unopened juice bottles that need to be delivered to the Fall Seminar. This is an early chance to start logging those 2017 education hours.

WIMGA Conference at the Dells: Ruth Cline asked for reports from WCMGV attending the WIMGA Conference. Barb Herreid said that Jerry Apps gave the keynote speech on **Thursday** night about Winter Flight over the Farm. She was impressed with the Plant Sale organized by SEMG and will share her notes with our Plant Sale committees. Lynn Bushmaker attended a session on making Seed Balls with clay. Audrey Brundidge said there were MG from Iowa, Illinois, Texas and Washington State. Jeremy Erickson attended a breakout session on Community Gardens and spoke with Mike Maddox on extending MG influence in the community, beyond project gardens. Unsure of location for 2017 WIMGA conference; but the 2018 conference is scheduled for Eau Claire.

New Business/Announcements: Extension Update - Jeremy Erickson reminded us that volunteer hours need to be turned into him by the end of this week. Blank volunteer hour forms are on the front table. They can also be used for 2017 hours. The courthouse repairs are proceeding. Still no decision on our storage closet. Jeremy wanted to acknowledge the great job Karen Houdek has been doing at the Community Garden in Wis. Rapids. Seven hundred pounds of fresh produce have been donated to the food pantry so far this year. On **Tuesday Oct 18** at 6pm, Jeremy will team with Sarah Siegel to give a 2-hour class on preservation and storage at UW Marshfield. This is another chance to get some early education hours for 2017. The next MG Level I Training is planned for April. Jeremy is looking for a more central location. Starting next week Jeremy will be out of state for 9 - 10 days.

Project Leaders: Jan Sabin reported that Joni Raulin needs more volunteers for the Hwy Welcome Signs project. If you are interested in joining the team for 2017 contact Joni or Jan this week. If you are short the 24 volunteer hours for 2016, Ruth Cline/ Vesper Library and Karen Houdek/Rapids Community Gardens have work for you. If you are short the 10 education hours, WPR has an eligible program every **Friday**. You can link to past programs from their website.

Dues Forms: Annual Dues Forms are being revised with new committee teams and definitions and will be at next meeting.

WIMGA Grants: We put together a \$100 grant request for Karen Houdek to add a Bulletin Board on Proper Composting at the Community Garden and a \$250 grant for WCMGV displays at farmer markets, plant sales, and other public events. By November 15th, WIMGA will notify WCMGV if grant application is accepted and grant money awarded for 2017.

Additional New Business: Garden Walk 2017: Barb Herreid and Denise Larsen reported the Garden Walk will be **Saturday July 8, 2017**. We have 6 Gardens with artists at all 6 gardens. Two gardens will have mother/daughter artist teams. Teri Lessig and her mother are one team.

Motion to Adjourn at 6:40pm was made by Karen Houdek, seconded by Bea Kohl, motion carried. The October meeting will be at MARS. The educational component will be about Growing Garlic.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Sabin/Sue Wilford, Secretary

Members Attending: Nancy Alger, Shirley Anderson, Sandy Artz, Audrey Brundidge, Lynn Bushmaker, Julie Carlsen, Bob Cline, Ruth Cline, Mary Czaja, Micky Erickson, Jennifer Fane, Patty Farley, Fern Fregien, Christine Griffith, Chris Grimes, Peg Harvey, Betty Havlik, Barb Herreid, Karen Houdek, Paula Klevene, Bea Kohl, Denise Larson, Gail Meyer, Barb Moes-Kleifgen, Kay O'Shasky, Jeanne Osgood, Debra Ostrowski, Jan Sabin, Marjorie Schenk, Connie Stout, Carol Tomke, Apollonia Virsnieks, Janet Wiemann, Marlene Winters. Advisor Jeremy Erickson. Guests: Joyce Osgood and Deb Rokke.

Meeting Program: Dehydration Food Preparation by Sarah Siegel.

And the winner is...



Let me present our winner of the first Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer Tomato Tasting Contest!

Annette Bowden has been a master gardener for 3 years and raised her winning tomato from seed. It was an heirloom variety called 'Nebraska Wedding'. The seeds were traditionally given to brides on their wedding day. It is a yellow variety with a low acidity and lovely mild flavor. Jan Sabin was our runner up and received a selection of extension publications on growing tomatoes in Wisconsin.

Submitted by: Julie Carlsen



As Wood County Master Gardeners we are blessed to be home to the cranberry, one of the world's most photogenic fruits. Wood County leads Wisconsin and Wisconsin the nation with over 60% of the US crop grown in-state. If you have guests from out of town this time of year offering a tour to a cranberry marsh is a great idea. The red fruit, blue water and colorful fall backdrop make for a beautiful photo composition.

Growers are busy, adding on many seasonal workers to bring the harvest in, so not all of them are able to offer personal tours. The Pittsville High School agriculture students, the Wisconsin Rapids Convention and Visitors Bureau and Glacial Lake Cranberries are all good possibilities to assist you with a tour.

Statewide over 200 growers grow over 20,000 acres of fruit and contribute nearly one billion to the states economy not only from the growing of the fruit but the processing into value added products such as sweetened dried cranberries and juice. In Wood County jobs in processing facilities contribute to the local economy in Wisconsin Rapids, Pittsville and Babcock. Fruit is frozen and stored so even though there is a rush at harvest time, employment in processing is a year round activity.

There was plentiful sun and heat this year. Cranberries like water but sometimes this year it was too much even for them! Reports are of a big crop coming in right now.

You may have noticed in some of the catalogs and garden centers that you can grow cranberries as an ornamental. I have done this and can report success with very little extra effort, however they are not that showy of a plant but if you want to be part of our great local cranberry industry you certainly can have your own plant in your garden. They do like a low pH and a good mulch should keep the moisture even.

We have a unique crop here in the county, still many of us are not that familiar with it, I would encourage you to learn more about this important and photogenic local crop.

Matt Lippert, UWEX



Garden Chili Recipe from Sarah Siegel

Garden Chili
Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$ pound ground beef (lean, 10% fat)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup green pepper (chopped)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ onion (large, chopped)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup celery (chopped)
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup kidney beans (canned, drained and rinsed)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sweet corn
1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
1 cup tomatoes (fresh, chopped)
1 dash black pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon garlic powder
2 teaspoons chili powder

Directions:

Wash your hands and work area

Place ground beef in a skillet sprayed with non-stick cooking spray. Brown meat over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally to break it into pieces

Drain fat and blot meat with a paper towels. Transfer beef into a colander and rinse with very hot water to further remove fat

Add green pepper, onion and celery to pan. Cook until softened

Add beans, corn, tomato sauce, chopped tomatoes, pepper, garlic and chili powder

Cook mixture over low heat for 20 minutes

Serve

Cover and refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours

Attention!

Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday and early publication of the newsletter, articles for the November newsletter are due

November 1st.



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Reminder:
Double Work Hours Available



Jazz Up your Garden Chili

What Could be Added?

Vegetables

- Zucchini
- Squash
- Carrots
- Green Beans
- Red or Yellow Peppers
- Spinach

Other ingredients

- Pinto
- Chickpeas/Garbanzo
- Black
- Lentils
- Barley

Extra Spice/Herbs to Season

- Red Pepper
- Thyme
- Salt

Choosing Vegetables:

Choose fresh vegetables from the farmers' market or your own garden
Canned or frozen vegetables can be used – watch the sodium content
Preserve your vegetables to make the garden chili on a chilly winter day

Serving your Garden Chili

- Individual bowls/servings
- As a hot dip with tortilla chips
- As a filling or topping for a sandwich
 - Cheese
 - Hamburger
- Filling on French bread or baguette
 - Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese
- Filling for a baked potato
- Sprinkle with a few dehydrated herbs or vegetables when serving



Saturday, October 22: 9:00 am. until done

Double hours are available for volunteer credit at the **Upham House**, 212 W 3rd St, Marshfield, for cleaning up the gardens. Refreshments and snacks will be available. Cutting down perennials, pulling weeds, pruning shrubs and raking leaved will be performed.

Save

- THE -

Date

JANUARY
20-21, 2017

Northcentral Technical College
1000 Campus Dr,
Wausau, WI 54401

GARDEN VISIONS

- 2017 -

REGISTRATION BEGINS:
DECEMBER 1, 2016

Check out our website
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/marathonmg/special-events/garden-visions/> for complete event details!



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION



University of Wisconsin-Extension

Christmas Tree Walk at The South Wood County Historical Museum

The Museum will be hosting a Christmas Tree Walk on Dec. 3, 4, 9, and 10th this year. The Master Gardener Volunteers at the Museum would like your help to decorate a tree. All trees must be artificial and the base tree for the decorations will be a blue spruce, about 7 ½ feet high, with white lights.

The tree will be filled with dried arrangements from our gardens. Can you help supply some tied sachets of dried flowers, seedheads, etc. Examples of dried flowers could be: hydrangeas, sedum, cimicifuga seeds heads, Chinese lanterns, grasses, red or yellow dogwood branches, grapevines, coneflowers, alliums, native flower seedheads, pinecones, etc. Even if you have a few individual specimens, bundles can be made from them.

If you can help with any materials, please bring them to the October 25th MG meeting at MARS. Please identify with a note, what you are bringing. Decorative educational cards identifying the dried materials will be attached to the tree to provide an educational venue to the public. If you would like to help the Museum gardeners decorate the tree during the week of November 13th, please contact Micky Erickson or Chris Griffith.



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October Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- On October 1, start treatment of poinsettias for bract coloration. Place in total darkness for 15 hours every day for 2 months. Night temperature should be 65-70 degrees F. Keep soil moist.
- Plant peonies until October 15. Mulch after ground freezes.
- Seed perennials such as Oriental poppy, Iceland poppy, gas plant, primrose, scabiosa, phlox, pansy and penstemon. Mark where planted.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs. Bulbs can be planted up to six weeks after first fall frost. Fertilize existing bulb beds with bone meal, milorganite, or 5-5-5 fertilizer.
- Harvest gladiolas at least six weeks after bloom and before ground freezes. Cure for three days at 80 degrees before storing. Label and store at 40-45 degrees in open trays.
- Remove iris leaves to prevent over wintering of iris borer eggs. Cut leaves to four-inch fans.
- Store tuberose at 45 degrees F, tuberous rooted begonias at 45-50 degrees, and caladium at 60 degrees.
- After killing frost, rose bush foliage should be stripped and old leaves cleaned from bed. Shortly before ground freezes, roses should be given good deep soaking. Prune branches enough to prevent whipping around in wind or to fit under rose cones.
- Sow seeds of hardy annuals: cleome, pinks, candytuft, larkspur, bachelor buttons and calendula. Mark where planted.
- Plant Jerusalem artichoke during last two weeks of month.
- Prepare vegetable garden soil for early spring planting. Remove old stalks to prevent insect and disease problems next year. Spread manure, incorporate into soil.
- Rejuvenate rhubarb by dividing into quarters and replanting.
- Cut back asparagus ferns and dispose to prevent insect and disease problems next year. Incorporate manure into soil and mulch with straw.
- Use mulch around Brussels sprouts to moderate soil temperature and prolong harvest.
- Water plants well for more cold tolerance.
- Plant garlic 2-3 inches deep and cover with 4-6 inches of straw mulch.
- Rake, chop and compost any fallen leaves from lawn.
- Fertilize shade trees when leaf color changes and leaves drop.
- Plant dormant deciduous trees and shrubs from now until ground freezes. A two-inch layer of mulch reduces freezing and thawing, which can damage roots.
- If fertilizing lawn one time a year, apply it in the third week of October. If fertilizing twice a year, apply in October and early June. If three times a year, include a September application.
- Water evergreens and foundation plantings before ground freezes.
- Protect woody ornamentals and fruit trees against mice.



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2016 WCMGV Board of Directors

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Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 10th of the month.

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Lead time for television and newspaper is four weeks. Call Karen for clarification of dates and deadlines.

Wisconsin Master Gardeners
Website: <http://wimastergardener.org>

Wood County Extension
Website: <http://wood.uwex.edu>

WVMGV Website: <http://www.wood-county-master-gardeners.org>

The Wood County Master Gardener Association is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with its members and the community alike. In addition, it is our charge to promote the UW Extension from which we are founded. We are a diverse group interested in the latest research-based horticultural information.

National MG Motivations Survey

The National Extension Master Gardener Coordinators' Conference in Montana, the University of Georgia and Iowa State University announced their joint research study entitled, "A National Study of Motivations of Extension Master Gardeners" (IRB-approved Study 00003567). The results of this study have the potential to benefit all of us, and we need your help to make it happen!

The survey uses Qualtrics survey software to present the questions and collect responses. You can respond to the survey using a smart phone, tablet, or computer. To participate, simply click on the link that will be sent via e-mail or access at <http://wimastergardener.org/>. Accessing the survey link is not harmful to your computer. The link will take you directly to an online survey where you simply click your responses or type in short answers. Completion of this online Motivations survey should take about 30 minutes, **and you can claim 1/2 hour of volunteer service** (in the category of support services) for completing the survey.

The study is legitimate **and** we need your input on things, such as the length of time you have been an EMG volunteer, the types of projects and activities that you do, what benefits you have received from being an EMG volunteer, and future directions for the EMG program.

