

# UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

April 2017

## WCMGV Program Information

### Sustainable Rose Culture

**April 25, 7:00 pm: MARS**

**Business Meeting followed by Sustainable Rose Culture by Tom Ptak**

Tom Ptak is a Master Gardener Volunteer in every sense. He is one of the lucky people who works in garden related fields and makes time for volunteering in his busy life. Along with being a certified landscape designer with Mc Kay Nursery he is the Director of the Green County Conservation League, a Wisconsin State Park Trails Designer, and a National Ice Age Trail member and volunteer! For our program he will be using



A red rose for Elena - Creative Commons by gnuckx

his experience as a Master Consulting Rosarian with the American Rose Society and Curator of the Heritage Rose Garden at the Governor William Upham House in Marshfield, which is on the National Historic registry. He will discuss the history, origin and types of roses; what to look for when purchasing a rose; tips on planting and seasonal rose care, including pruning; insects and diseases along with integrated pest management all with time for questions and answers.

**Growing, Drying & Using Herbs by Donna Streiff**

**May 23, 7:00 pm: MARS**

Business meeting followed Herb Presentation

Donna is one of our newest Board members and already sharing her knowledge with us!

### Member Plant Exchange

While spring cleaning your gardens remember that our annual plant sale is May 13. This is our membership plant exchange! So there are plenty of homes waiting for your divided perennials!



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- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ UWEX Report
- ◆ Help at Marshfield Fair Grounds
- ◆ WCMGV November Minutes
- ◆ Garden Walk Boutique
- ◆ April Garden Guide
- ◆ Worm Castings Order Form
- ◆ WCMGV Programs
- ◆ WCMGV Awards
- ◆ Garden Walk 2017
- ◆ Hancock Research Station Open House
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- ◆ WCMGV Programs and Meetings
- ◆ Help the Lowell Senior Center Win!



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## From the President's Notebook

Snow is in the forecast as I write tonight. Snow is not all bad! When I was just a kid, I remember hearing my Dad say “snow...yep...poor man's fertilizer.” At the time, that piece of information went right over my head. Then one night it snowed on my Dad's oat crop. The next morning Dad and I walked out to check the oats. The sun was up and had melted the snow off the oat field. He said, “See how those oats just popped

right up out of the ground after the snow?” Dad told me the nitrogen in the air was pulled down by the snow. My first lesson in science and chemistry! Being a farmer, my Dad always talked about the weather. So this year, I have noticed how the unusual winter and now spring weather has changed the feeding habits of wildlife and birds. We track our visual observations here on our acreage. Even plants and trees seem affected by the odd weather patterns we are experiencing. Time will tell once spring finally arrives in full force; perhaps our observations then will be more pronounced.

Thanks to Jan Sabin for the wonderful virtual trip to the Florida Everglades at our March meeting. Jan, your inspiring presentation made folks want to visit the Ever Glades since you captured the highlights and environmental value of that area. In April, our speaker is WCMGV, Tom Ptak. If you have never visited the Upham Mansion Gardens, after hearing Tom talk about his rose garden there you will make that site a destination priority. This rose garden will take you back in history. More information about Tom and the program in this newsletter.

In the previous newsletter, I wrote about initiating educational plans for garden sites that WCMGVs maintain for each client. WCMGV garden sites provide some type of visual educational components such as plant labels and horticulture related brochures and information in a weather proof holder for the visitors to take and learn more about gardening. Many sites have added garden art to enhance the gardens. Some teams plant veggies for the public to harvest. Our next step is to add face-to-face educational components to our garden projects. Our mission is to educate ourselves and then share this information with the public.

Below are some suggestions/ideas as promised for youth/adult education. Teams may choose from the following list or come up with their own ideas. Teams may host the program at their garden project site or wherever it is convenient; a library provides a very nice setting! Here are a few ideas:

- Give a tour of your garden site for the public, highlighting the plants and their care, discussing names of plants and perhaps pointing out your favorite plant. Perhaps have a few extra plants potted and ready to hand out to program attendees.
- Set-up a coffee time with WCMGVs at a library, park, or elsewhere and chat informally about gardening. Bring along a few of your favorite garden books and magazines and

share your love of gardening. Bring any extra magazines to share with your program attendees.

- Organize a “How to plant a Container Garden” at your garden site. Brochures are available at UW Extension to help you with that program.
- Set-up a fun mini- garden site at your garden site for youth. Invite youth to bring an adult and learn how to plant a kid’s garden. Have kids make the plant labels! Have a resource on hand for the kids to look up answers to the simple questions you will ask. Invite the youth to check on “their garden” to see what is growing. Let the kids harvest the veggies! Bring simple treats for everyone.
- Set-up a Garden Walk in your respective area and tour all of the WCMGV gardens in that area. Collaborate with other team leaders and teams to be present at their garden site for a brief discussion of the site. Serve simple treats. Share extra plants, magazines, and garden books.
- Start a garden book club--perhaps just for summer or just for winter. Meet at local café, have coffee and ask each person to share a couple of things they learned by reading. Used garden books are readily available!
- Have a session and teach how to make a simple fairy garden, or make a simple garden art item for home or garden.
- Read youth garden related books to a group of kids at a library. Have an interactive discussion with the kids. Provide a simple treat.

These ideas are intended to get you thinking about how much fun it is to educate youth and adults. Once you try it, you will enjoy sharing your horticultural education with youth and adults. Start small and simple. Try for at least one program per WCMGV garden project/site in 2017. Use your garden site for the program or make arrangements to meet elsewhere. You are the educator.

If you have questions, need help or funding for your educational face-to-face program please contact a member of the Community Out-Reach Team. Just as a reminder, you earn hours for planning and presenting the programs. Together we can increase our face-to-face educational hours while providing a valuable service to our community in 2017.

“Every individual has a place to fill in the world and is important in some respect, whether he chooses to be so or not.”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

*Ruth Cline*

**Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers**  
**WI Rapids Courthouse, Room 114, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; March 28, 2017; 1.5 hr. Continuing Education**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Minutes 11/15/16**—Bea Kohl moved to accept past minutes as written, seconded by Fania Marx, motion carried.

**Financial report/2017 Budget:** Financial report and 2017 budget given by Barb Herreid. Motion to accept reports as presented was made by Diane Nickel. Seconded by Audrey Brundidge. Motion carried.

**Old Business/Announcements:**

**Check Sign-In Table for sign-up sheets/information/handouts/other**

**Cook Book Project Update** – Sue Wilford reported 200 books left to sell by 2018. Will sell at spring seminar and May plant sale.

**New Business/Announcements:**

**Extension Update:** New criminal background check is delayed. WCMGV training class starting every Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> through July 13<sup>th</sup> in Pittsville from 5:30-8:30pm Jeremy looking for MGV to do a 10-15 minute presentation. WR Community Garden meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at First Congregational Church. Vegetable seed starting class at UW Marshfield on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm. Wisconsin Hunger Summit through Feeding America to be held at Hotel Mead on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Two Garden tours in Portage County in July and September;

**Spring Seminar April 8<sup>th</sup> MSTC** – flyers available for distribution. Sign-up sheets circulated for attendance, food and helping pre/post seminar.

**WR Children's Festival April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm to put packets together.

**Garden Walk July 8<sup>th</sup>** -next meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> after spring seminar. Sign-up circulated. Denise explained craft classes starting a 5pm: April 13<sup>th</sup> flower rock art; May 16<sup>th</sup> Bee Habitats, and June 12<sup>th</sup> catch up. In need of more feed bags/aprons. Jeanne Osgood about donation of Aldo Leopold bench for possible auction item.

**Art in Garden Boutique items** – Bob and Ruth will collect items again this year.

**WR Plant Sale – May 13<sup>th</sup> 9-1 pm at Helen Zoo House.** Deb Debyl distributed flyers for posting. Looking for volunteer to assist with mixing potting soil. Need volunteers to put up and take down signs the day of plant sale. Looking for plant donations and used garden books.

**WCMGV 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2017** – committee to meet April 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss ideas for displays – trifolds.

**Wood County hosts FTD 2018 – Input/Ideas/Help needed** – Meeting at 6pm prior to April meeting at MARS. Farm Tech Days will be at Weber/Sternweis Farms in Marshfield on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Project Leader/Committee/Team Updates/Information** – Jan Sabin reported garden beds are deteriorating at Lowell Senior Center and access for seniors is difficult. Project, with South Wood County Food Pantry, to redesign gardens to cost \$20,000 to 42,000; Fund raiser through USA Today – need MGV to vote daily from April 12<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup> on the video they created. Donna Streiff reported Marshfield Healthy Lifestyles is in need of MGV to provide 1-3 hours per week at Sacred Heart School to help maintain gardens; utilized by youth net after school program. For more info, email Donna or call Therese 715-221-8400. Chris Grimes relayed request by Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield to work with gardens as consultant. Chris will email regarding contact information. Judy Miller stated Edgewater Haven project looking for more MGV; meet once a week. Barb Herreid reported last date to order worm castings in May 1<sup>st</sup>. Barb Herreid has T-shirts ordered for distribution.

**MG 101 Mini Programs:** Karleen Remington discussed MG 110 Mini Program; to answer questions that members may have. Ruth Cline completes an Accomplishment Report yearly; with focus on community education. Joyce Fischer reported PBS has many educational programs, many from Garden Expo.

**Community Education Attendance Form:** Sue Wilford distributed new form. All members to complete and turn in by October 1<sup>st</sup> with time sheets. Form available on WCMGV website.

**Sign-up for teams, committees, projects:** Sue Wilford asked all members to review teams, committees, projects that MGV signed up. Also to consider specific tasks under Horticultural Advisory and Community Education and Outreach categories.

**Additional New Business:** Upcoming meetings listed in newsletter. Send Ruth Cline an email of meeting info; she will get it into the newsletter; due by 10<sup>th</sup> of month. Question raised if each work project can have a 'double work hours' day! YES! By Jeremy Erickson

Debby Brown suggested moles may be bad this year. Also asked to consider having a sign-up for refreshments for meetings, with MGV bringing their own drink.

**Motion to Adjourn** at 8:03pm was made by Bob Cline, seconded by Scott MacMillan, motion carried. Next meeting: April 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm at MARS, Marshfield WI; Sustainable Rose Culture by Tom Ptak

Respectfully Submitted -- Sue Wilford, Secretary

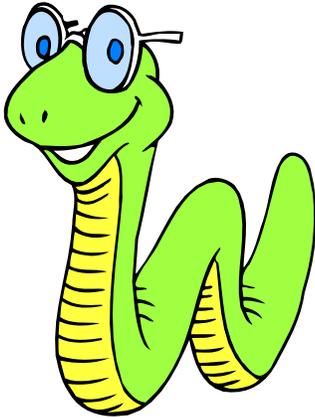
**Members Attending:** Sandra Artz, Annette Bowden, Debby Brown, Audrey Brundidge, Lynn Bushmaker, Julie Carlson, Bob Cline, Ruth Cline, Mary Czaja, Debra Debyl, Liz Erdman, Jennifer Fane, Patricia Farley, Joyce Fischer, Fern Fregien, Chris Grimes, Peg Harvey, Betty Havlik, Barb Herreid, Karen Houdek, Bea Kohl, Denise Larson, Scott MacMillan, Joy Mader, Fania Marx, Ellen Mazurek, Judy Miller, Tammera Neumann, Diane Nickel, Jim Nickel, Jeanne Osgood, Tom Paul, Patricia Paulus, Joni Raulin, Karleen Remington, Jan Sabin, Marjorie Schenk, Roberta Stolt, Connie Stout, Donna Streiff, Carol Tomke, Janet Wiemann, Sue Wilford, Penn Wilkes, Mary Zahn. UW Extension Educator: Jeremy Erickson. Guests: David Fisher and Shelby Weister.

**Meeting Program:** MGV Awards and Florida Everglades Presentation by Jan Sabin.

Worm Compost, also called Worm Castings is a very rich source of nutrients for your plants.

***Ideal for Containers, Hanging Baskets, Houseplants and Perennials***

**A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY!**



**Benefits of Worm Castings:**

- Superior organic fertilizer and soil amendment
- Naturally aerates and improves the soil
- Helps soil retain moisture
- Does not contain toxic chemicals
- Naturally releases nutrients to plants both immediately and slow-release
- Promotes biological activity in soil
- Promotes healthy root growth
- Doesn't burn plants

\*\*\* \*\*

## Worm Castings – **Special Member Sale**

Item	Price	Quantity	Total
1# Bag	\$3.00		
5# Bag	\$8.00		
20# Bag	\$23.00		
30# Bag	\$36.00		
50# Bag	\$50.00		

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to WCMGV and mail to Barb Herreid, 946 S. Archers Way, Nekoosa, WI 54457

**ORDER DEADLINE IS MAY 1<sup>st</sup>**

The bags of Worm Castings will be distributed at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> monthly meeting or at the WR Plant Sale on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## 2017 Garden Walk, July 8

### **Greeters and Guides needed**

More volunteers are needed for these jobs. Contact Julie Carlsen or Barb Moes-Kleifgen if you can work part or all of the day.

### **Boutique Craft Nights**

Craft nights to make items to sell at the Garden Walk Boutique are scheduled at Denise Larson's house, 3917 Pryne Road, Wisconsin Rapids. Each session begins at 5pm, but come when you can if that is too early. Contact Denise directly at [lorden74@hotmail.com](mailto:lorden74@hotmail.com) so she can plan her supplies.

### **Coffee Can Bee Habitat: Tuesday, May 16**

If you have any bamboo, dried cup plant stems, pine cones, plume poppy stems, or reed grasses, bring them along.

### **Catch Up Craft Night: Monday, June 12**

You will be working on finishing up any incomplete projects. If you have any resin figures or statuary you would like to donate, bring them along as Denise wants to try adding paint embellishments.



## Continuing Education Report: Spring Seminar and upcoming Fall Seminar

Our MG Spring Seminar has just concluded with 76 participants enjoying the presentation of Dr. Brian Smith and Lynn Steiner. We hope that you keep the handouts provided from each speaker because there is much information to add to your personal gardening reference files. The speakers were impressed with your attentiveness and questions. And the seminar provided you with 3 hours of continuing education for 2017.

Our Fall Seminar is planned for October 28<sup>th</sup> at UW-Marshfield Campus. Please put this date on your calendar. Posters and signups will take place this summer. But here is the lineup for an exciting morning in Marshfield.

The first speaker is Ben Futa of Allen Centennial Garden and his topic is "Building a Bulb Lawn: Adding a New Dimension to your Lawn." This practical, step-by-step presentation will illustrate how to create a beautiful "bulb lawn/meadow"—an arrangement of bulbs planted in your lawn can delight throughout the entire growing season.

The second speaker is Rob Zimmer and his topic is "The Important Role of Conifers in the Home Landscape" and will touch on native vs. hybrids, dwarf conifers for smaller yards as well as cultural conditions needed such as amount of light and types of soils and winter protection required.

Many thanks go to our Continuing Education Team members: Jeremy, Maria, Micky, Jennifer, Barb, Karen and Purvi. We always ask for your suggestions for future seminars for you. Please contact any of us with suggestions. And thanks to those who baked and brought snacks for our attendees. Our guests from outside the area and our membership were impressed with our hospitality.

Submitted by Micky Erickson

## Happy Spring!

Spring is finally upon us! The gardening season is quickly approaching, and all are hoping for an early and warm spring so that we can get out and start digging in the dirt! This spring we are conducting the Master Gardener Level 1 Training Class. The class is being held in Pittsville at the Town of Wood Hall on Thursday evenings from 5:30pm-8:30pm and will be running from April 27 through July 13. We have a full class of almost 20 people, and we are really looking forward to having this new group join our Wood County Master Gardeners.

As we are getting ready for the spring gardening season, planning has begun for the Community Gardens in both Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield. We have scheduled work days, demonstrations, and workshops to be held at each garden site and are taking applications for the upcoming season. We are always looking for more interested volunteers or community groups to assist with various tasks at the Community Gardens. Community Partners for the Community Gardens include: Marshfield Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, First Congregational Church Wisconsin Rapids, Riverview Hospital, Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers, and more.

I will be teaching a Basic Vegetable Seed Starting Class on April 20<sup>th</sup>, at UW Marshfield from 6-7:30. This can be used for up to 2 hours of Continuing Education credit. Contact the UW Marshfield Continuing Education Department for more information.

There is also a new Criminal Background Check Procedure coming down from the state, and you all should be receiving an e-mail in the coming weeks (or snail mail) regarding how to complete it.

Wishing you all a happy spring season!

Jeremy Erickson  
Horticulture Educator  
UW-Extension Wood County

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## Garden Walk Art Boutique Needs Donations

Calling all Members!

As you cleanout your garden sheds and spring clean your garage and basement, please save any garden related items you don't need! Bob and Ruth Cline are collecting your items and storing them for the upcoming 2017 garden walk. We will collect items, clean and repair as needed, then price, store and set-up items for the Garden Walk Boutique July 8th. Examples of items to donate include: flower pots of all kinds, garden art items, bird houses, bee houses, bird baths, bird cages, trellises, small benches, garden tools, old small windows (even if glass is missing), old garden gates (small), any item that may be re-purposed into garden art, old pails, garden books and magazines, art work, garden creatures/statues, small colored stones, old bike helmets, baskets—just about any item you think would be useful to a creative gardener. If you have a question about a donation, contact us at [stonegate@tds.net](mailto:stonegate@tds.net) or 715-569-4202. Items can be brought to April, May and June membership meetings. Questions? Don't hesitate to contact us!! We really need a great variety to make the Garden Art Boutique a success in 2017.

## 2017 Master Gardener Volunteer Programs

Date/Time	Location	Topic/Guest Speaker
March 28 7 pm	Wi Rapids Court-house	Volunteer hour awards Jan Sabin - Everglades Adventure
April 25 7 pm	MARS	Tom Ptak Sustainable Rose Culture
May 23 7 pm	MARS	Member plant exchange Growing, Drying & Using Herbs by Donna Streiff
June 27 7 pm	Wi Rapids	Our Lady Queen of Heaven School Garden
July 25 6 pm	Marshfield Wild-wood Zoo	Using Native Perennials in the Marshfield Bear Gardens Kathy Poehnelt
August 22 6 pm	Wi Rapids	Wi Rapids Community Gardens Karen Houdek
September 26 7 pm	Wi Rapids	Cranberry Program Matt Lippert
October 24 7 pm	MARS	Member seed exchange Microgreens by Jeremy
November 28 7 pm	MARS	Italy with Paula Klevene



**The Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers invite you to attend**

*Garden Walk 2017*

Tour 6 gardens in the Wisconsin Rapids and Rome areas.

*Save the Date*

**Saturday, July 8th  
9:30am-3:30pm**

For more information, please call Barb Herreld at 715-325-2075 or visit <https://wood-county-master-gardeners.org>

Tickets with driving directions and map will be available in July.

## Hancock Research Station Open House and Tour, August 5, 2017

The gardens at the Hancock Research Station will be open for tours with Waushara County Master Gardener Volunteers who work in the gardens available to answer questions. There are a variety of types of gardens to be viewed: a square foot garden area, a Life-long Gardening area with tools and information about gardening for older or disabled gardeners, an All-American Selection garden, shade gardens, a butterfly garden, fruit gardens, a bulb garden, a pond and several perennial gardens throughout the grounds. There will also be a baked potato bar and a variety of vendors at the Open House. Tours of the grounds of the Research Station will be offered during the Open House as well. The event is free. Directions are simple. From Wisconsin Rapids take Hwy 73 towards Plainfield to I-39, turn right onto I-39 (exit Hwy I-39 at Hancock, go west on Hwy V to Research Station). Address is N3909 County Road V, Hancock, WI

## WCMGV Meetings and Notices

**April 19th:** 20th Anniversary WCMGV Team Mtg. 4 p.m. ETN Rm –UW Ext.CH

**April 22nd:** Wis. Rapids Children's Fest.

**April 24th:** WCMGV BOD Mtg. Wis. Rapids – CH- UW Ext. Kitchen 5:30 p.m.

**April 25th:** WCMGVs Farm Technology Days Planning Meeting 6 p.m.  
MARS (held prior to WCMGV Mtg.) (all interested WCMGVs welcome)

**April 25th:** WCMGV Membership Meeting – 7 p.m. MARS

**May 13th:** W.R. Plant Sale - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. new location - Helen's Zoo House  
(at WR Zoo site)

**May 16th:** Cont. Ed. Team Mtg. 11 a.m. UW Ext. ETN Rm.

**June 25th:** Marshfield Respite Care Garden Walk, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Upham Mansion Gardens and Joyce Fischer Gardens will be on this walk)

**July 8th:** WCMGV Garden Walk 2017

**August 5th:** Hancock Research Station Open House and Tour 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
(information in newsletter)

**August 29th:** Central Wis. State Fair Marshfield (WCMGVs assist with Judging –Jr. Fair Horticulture Dept.)

**September 16th & 17th:** Marshfield Fall Plant Sale at Maple Fest

**October 28th:** Fall Garden Seminar – UW Marshfield

This is a new column in newsletter to better serve our WCMGV membership. Committees, teams, project leaders, BODs, are encouraged to send meeting notices for this column.

**HELP!**

### Request for help at Marshfield Fair Grounds

Marshfield Fair Grounds Garden Project in need of your help with Spring Clean-up. Members who are available to work will receive double hours. Bring garden tools for general spring clean-up, rakes, pruners, etc. Contact Joyce Fischer, WCMGV via phone or email if you can work any of the following dates. Help needed April 19th(April 26th rain day), May 17th(May 24th rain day). Your support of this project is greatly appreciated. Come help, learn new garden clean-up tips, and enjoy working and sharing together with other WCMGVs. Thanks in advance for your help!

# April Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

## April Garden Guide

- Start tomato seeds indoors. Research shows seven-week old transplants produce earliest fruit and best overall results.
- Cut back over-wintered geraniums to six to eight inches.
- Start fast-growing annual flowers indoors.
- Start seedlings of eggplant, okra, peppers and broccoli.
- Set out lily of the valley clumps with pips just even with the ground.
- When annual beds can be worked, turn over green manure crop such as annual rye in beds for annuals and vegetables. If none was planted, top-dress with compost or rotted manure.
- Remove mulch from spring flowering bulb beds.
- Container grown or balled and burlapped trees and shrubs can be planted at any time during the growing season.
- Divide perennials and pot for the PCMG plant sale by the end of the month. This will provide roots time to get established.
- Prune and fertilize all bush fruits and grapes. Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after ground thaws but before blossoming.
- Plant rhubarb and asparagus as soon as ground can be worked.
- Remove rose cones when soil thaws. Gradually remove soil mound from around rose plants.



# Congratulations!



## 2016 WCMGV Hours Awards – Recognized March, 2017

Category	Award	Name
Newly Certified – 24 hours	Name badge holder	Roberta Stolt ( <i>transfer in</i> ) Janet Wiemann ( <i>transfer in</i> )
150 hours	Pen	Jim Bove Annette Bowden Jennifer Fane Marlene Winters
250 hours	Sports bottle	Jennifer Fane Kay O'Shasky Mary Zahn
500 hours	Portfolio	Deb Debyl Karen Houdek Paula Klevene Sue Wilford
750 hours	Bag	Mary Czaja Denise Larson Scott MacMillan Apollonia Virsnieks Penn Wilkes
1,000 hours	Polo shirt	Audrey Brundidge Famia Marx Gail Meyer Judy Miller
1,500 hours	Tool bag	Betty Havlik
3,000 hours	Twill Shirt	Ruth Cline
5,000 hours	State Plaque	Chris Landowski

## Talley-Hoe



UPDATED FORM: Year End Tally of Community Education: This form was updated to make the tracking of community education much simpler. You can locate the form on the WCMGV website. Since all MGV provide horticultural advice to the community during the year, all MGV will need to complete the form and turn into the extension office by October 1st annually, along with your hours. Just track date of interaction, gardening question or title

of presentation and number of people (adults/youth) involved in interaction. It is just that simple.

*Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers*

# SPRING PLANT SALE

## “HELEN’S ZOO HOUSE”

AT WISCONSIN RAPIDS ZOO 1911 GAYNOR AVE

SATURDAY MAY 13 9:00am — 1:00pm

### ***Features:***

**New Varieties of Perennials,  
Hostas, Native Plants, and  
Annuals**

### ***“From Our Garden to Yours”***

**Perennial Divisions Grown from  
Member Gardens.**

### ***Also Available***

Special Blend Potting Soil

Worm Castings

Homemade Bird Suet

Master Gardener Volunteers will be on-hand to answer gardening questions.

Proceeds from sale are used to fund Wood County Master Gardener Projects throughout the membership area.



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and Americans with Disabilities (ADFA) requirements.



## Master Gardener Volunteers Plant Sale Announced

The Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers announce their annual Spring Plant Sale to be held at 9:00 am – 1:00 pm on Saturday, May 13, at "Helen's Zoo House" at Wisconsin Rapids Zoo, 1911 Gaynor Avenue in Wisconsin Rapids.

New Varieties of Perennials, Hostas, Native Plants and Annual Bedding plants will be available. From Our Garden to Yours will feature perennial divisions grown from member gardens. In addition, also available will be items for our area; special blend potting soil; worm castings – a superior organic fertilizer; and homemade bird suet. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser provide support for Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer projects in the membership area. Master Gardener Volunteers will be on-hand to answer gardening questions.

### Drop off sites for plant donations and gardening books:

\*Marshfield at MARS Thursday May 11 until 6 p.m.

\*Wisconsin Rapids - Thursday/Friday May 11 & 12 at Helen's Zoo House (WI. Rapids Zoo) 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## HELP THE LOWELL SENIOR CENTER WIN!

One of our ongoing Master Gardener projects is the raised bed gardens located at the Lowell Senior Center in Wisconsin Rapids. Planted with strawberries, vegetables, and flowers, and with the assistance of Master Gardener Volunteers, these garden beds allow clients of the Senior Center to participate in a favorite hobby, enjoy the fresh air and sunshine while getting exercise, and enjoy some fresh, organic produce at the Senior Center lunch site.

Although the raised beds are a convenience, accessibility is still an issue as the grass and rock mulch are difficult to maneuver with walking aids.

Enter USA TODAY NETWORK "A Community Thrives" competition which sponsors a contest in which volunteer groups can win a grant of \$50,000 or \$100,000 to fund creative solutions to critical needs in our communities.

Lowell Senior Center has taken up the challenge in order to make improvements to the gardening area to enable center clients to participate in gardening more safely and easily and with greater satisfaction. We have submitted a video defining our problem and our plans to fix it.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? By going to the ACT (A Community Thrives) website <http://act.usatoday.com> and voting for our video. **Voting starts @11:59 a.m. EST on April 12, 2017 and ends @ 11:59 a.m. EST on May 12th, 2017.** You may vote once every day. Our video is entitled "Lowell Senior Center Gardens".

1. Go to [act.usatoday.com](http://act.usatoday.com)
2. Select **Vote Now**.
3. Select the **search spyglass** and type in the word "Lowell" to find our video
4. Select the "Vote" arrow for our video.
5. To be sure that people do not vote more than once per day, you will be asked to supply your **first name, last name, email address and postal code**. If the email address is not valid, the vote will not count.
6. Press **Submit**.



At the end of the voting period, up to 10 applications in each of 3 categories which have received the highest number of votes, will be the Finalists and advance to judging. Judging will be on May 28th. There will be 3 winners from each of 3 categories. Our video is in the Wellness category and features Jan Sabin.

You must be 13 years old or older to vote. Each voter will be required to complete a registration form with your complete name, email address and age.

Please vote every day, if possible. Remind your friends and family to vote also. Thank you for voting!



# 2017 WCMGV Board of Directors

**President—Ruth Cline**

[stonegate@tds.net](mailto:stonegate@tds.net)

715-569-4202

**Vice President—Julie Carlsen**

[carlsens@hotmail.com](mailto:carlsens@hotmail.com)

715-886-4466

**Secretary—Sue Wilford**

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

**Public Relations Chair**

**Karen Thlachac**

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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](http://wimastergardener.org)

**Wood County Extension**

**Website:** <http://>

[wood.uwex.edu](http://wood.uwex.edu)

**WVMGV Website:** <http://>

[www.wood-county-master-gardeners.org](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.

## Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer

### Team and Committee Membership Review

At the March meeting, a number of MGV signed up for additional committees/teams. These sign-up sheets will be available at our meeting in April, as well. Please check/validate the committees/teams you signed up for and if you want to join any other committee/team. Teams are always looking for new members.

I would encourage you to consider signing up for the Horticultural Advisory or the Community Outreach and Education, which have been broken into more specific tasks. Under **Horticultural Advisory**, the two specific tasks are: Garden Clinics (at Farmer's Market, plant sales, other community events) and Q&A at Extension office. Under **Community Outreach and Education**, the four tasks are: Hands on Workshop, Education at Project Sites, Plant Label Making, and Designing Garden Informational Signs.

All of these are great opportunities to gain the required volunteer hours.

Sue Wilford, Sec.



## 2017 Responding to Horticulture Inquiries

Members of the UW-Extension Horticulture Team will be hosting the annual professional development “Responding to Horticulture Inquiries” at three locations in cooperation with the respective County UW-Extension offices. The program objectives are to:

Acquaint UW-Extension agents, educators, office staff and Master Gardener Volunteers with information on UW-Extension diagnostic services, written and web-based horticulture resources, and UW-Extension personnel who can assist in answering horticulture-related questions.

The program information and schedule for the three locations are as follows:

<p><b>Marathon County</b>  <b>Friday, April 7, 2017</b>            8:45am – 4:30pm</p> <p>Marathon County UW-Extension            212 River Drive, Suite 3            Wausau, WI 54403-5476</p> <p>Registration deadline:            March 31</p> <p>Heather Schlessner            715-261-1230  <a href="mailto:heather.schlessner@ces.uwex.edu">heather.schlessner@ces.uwex.edu</a></p> <p>Link to the registration flyer at  <a href="http://wimasteregardener.org/files/2016/05/2017-RHI-Marathon-schedule.pdf">http://wimasteregardener.org/files/2016/05/2017-RHI-Marathon-schedule.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>Kenosha County</b>  <b>Wednesday, May 3, 2017</b>            8:45am – 4:30pm</p> <p>Kenosha County UW-Extension            19600 – 75th Street, Suite 2            Bristol, WI 53104</p> <p>Registration deadline:            April 26</p> <p>Jeanne Hilinske-Christensen            262-857-1945  <a href="mailto:Jeanne.Hilinske-Christensen@ces.uwex.edu">Jeanne.Hilinske-Christensen@ces.uwex.edu</a></p> <p>Link to registration flyer at  <a href="http://wimasteregardener.org/files/2016/05/2017-RHI-Kenosha-schedule.pdf">http://wimasteregardener.org/files/2016/05/2017-RHI-Kenosha-schedule.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>Outagamie County</b>  <b>Tuesday, May 16, 2017</b>            8:45am – 4:30pm</p> <p>Outagamie Co. UW-Extension            3365 W. Brewster St            Appleton, WI 54914</p> <p>Registration deadline:            May 9</p> <p>Kevin Jarek            920-832-5121  <a href="mailto:kevin.jarek@outagamie.org">kevin.jarek@outagamie.org</a></p> <p>Link to registration flyer at  <a href="http://wimasteregardener.org/files/2017/02/2017-RHI-Outagamie-schedule.pdf">http://wimasteregardener.org/files/2017/02/2017-RHI-Outagamie-schedule.pdf</a></p>
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The sessions this year will be \$15, which includes lunch. You must make a reservation by the deadline listed for each location with the respective UW-Extension office where you would like to attend. Please use the appropriate registration form for the county where you would like to attend the program!

**Program includes** (order and exact times vary by location)

*UW-Madison/Extension Diagnostic Services*, Brian Hudelson, UW-Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

*Strategies for Effectively Answering Horticulture Questions in a County UW-Extension Office*, by host group

*2017 Plant Insect Update*, PJ Liesch, UW-Extension Insect Diagnostics Lab

*2017 Weed Update*, Mark Renz, UW-Extension Weed Scientist

*2017 Plant Disease Update*, Brian Hudelson, UW-Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

*Animals in the Landscape*, David Drake, UW-Extension Wildlife Specialist (or *Soil Testing*, only at the Appleton session)