

# UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

June 2017

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.

## WCMGV Program Information

### Tour of Our Lady Queen of Heaven School Garden with Eliz Erdmann

June 27, 7:00 pm: OLQH, WR

#### Tour of the Garden followed by Business Meeting

The children's garden at OLQH was design to let children learn how fun it is to grow food—from sprouting to nibbling. The children have enjoyed watermelons, green beans, peas, cucumbers and some fun flowers. Corn on the cob has been a challenge along with potatoes and carrots. But the excitement that giant pumpkins and baby boos create will always be the garden favorite.



This school garden tour should prove to be very educational for us. The business

meeting will take place outside near the garden, if the weather permits, so bring a chair and water bottle if desired. The garden is located on the south side of the church and school, and its white picket fence is visible from 10th Street. Parking is available in the lot, north of the church or on the street. The address is 750 10th Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids.

### Using Natives in a “Know” Maintenance Planting

July 25, 6:00 pm (early start time) Wildwood Zoo Marshfield

Members who saw the Bear cubs at last years meeting at the Zoo will be AMAZED at how they have grown. Kathy Poehnelt will be showing us the native perennials used in the Bear's gardens. We will have directions and parking information to Marshfield's Wildwood Zoo in next month's newsletter. It will be worth the trip to go even earlier and check out the other animals and the lovely gardens!



- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ Help at UW-EX
- ◆ Requests for Help
- ◆ WCMGV May Minutes
- ◆ WCMGV Required Hours
- ◆ Open Board Positions
- ◆ Master Gardener 101
- ◆ Youth Education Opportunity
- ◆ Garden Walk Boutique
- ◆ WCMGV Programs
- ◆ Hancock Research Station Open House
- ◆ WCMGV Meetings and Notices
- ◆ June Garden Guide
- ◆ Community Education
- ◆ Fall Plant Sale
- ◆ WR Plant Sale Needs Co-Chair
- ◆ WCMGV 20th Anniversary
- ◆ Continuing Education Report
- ◆ Responding to Horticulture Inquiries



CREDIT PHOTO COURTESY FLICKR USER FISH HAWK VIA  
CREATIVE COMMONS

## From the President's Notebook

Welcome summer weather! Even though the calendar shows June 21<sup>st</sup> as first day of summer, we have been experiencing summer-like weather for a few weeks. Everywhere one looks, signs of summer exist, both in area of horticulture and agriculture. One of my favorite seasonal activities is to take a drive around Wood County and check out the gardens and fields: which farmer planted beans last year and

now has corn growing; whose hay field is now in sorghum grass; who has tried winter wheat ? I am reminded of the practice of rotation of crops. This is as important for large fields as it is for your garden at home. The fun part of gardening (I think) is to plant a flower/veggie garden and then observe how it looks overtime. If a plant is unhappy where I planted it, I move the plant to a different garden site. I rarely have bug or disease issues in my gardens. I do plant a lot of natives around the farm. Since container and square foot gardening became popular, I have continued to garden with tomatoes, peppers, celery, onions and salad greens as my favorites. I love shopping Farmer's Markets and look for new veggies to try out. I love to cook. Stir fry and soup lend me the opportunity to use my favorite vegetables in creative ways. I encourage all of you to enjoy the variety of fresh food items available in our area. If you have a special recipe using fresh veggies, please send a copy to our newsletter editor for all to try!

Our WCMGVs are very busy spring through late fall maintaining their respective approved/ authorized WCMGV garden sites. We have 25 sites that our Wood County group of 79 certified MGs fund and maintain. In addition, we have five youth/adult projects for horticultural education. When not physically involved with these 30 projects our hard working WCMGVs are involved with committees, teams, board of directors, UW Extension support and other community horticulture needs and educational events.

Why am I writing about this subject you ask? We, the WCMGVs are carrying a very heavy load. Over the last 20 years our project numbers have grown, so we have several garden sites that we have maintained and funded for most of those twenty years. Over our 20 years of horticulture work in Wood County and its borders, we have taken on garden sites short term to provide guidance and horticulture advice as well as to provide some labor and funds to get the project back up and blooming, so to speak. The United Way garden is a perfect example. WCMGVs worked with the United Way Staff to renovate their gardens with the idea that the client would assume responsibility for their garden site once up and growing. WCMGVs would be available for advice in the future, but responsible for maintenance and funding just until the client could take over.

Another site was Vesper School garden projects. WCMGV once again supplied advice, some

labor and assistance to get the school garden projects up and running. After a year or two the maintenance of the school gardens was returned to the school staff and students, with WCMGVs being available for advice as needed.

As I reviewed our 20 years of community projects, I noted several gardens have been dropped from our list of projects due to there being no project leader and/or team available, or due to the gardens not meeting WCMGV guidelines, or due to the garden being removed by community because of construction. Some gardens such as the Community Gardens in Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids are operated by more than one group. WCMGVs partner with others to fund and maintain these gardens. The community residents who have a garden plot help with maintaining the community gardens.

Several WCMGV garden sites are used for community educational activities and events. Some examples include: the Lowell Senior Center, the Wakely Gardens, both WR and Marshfield community gardens, Vesper park and library, Marshfield fairgrounds, the Rome library, the WR Zoo, the Pittsville Historical Society and Soo Line Lot. The two children's fests, the education center at WR Zoo, the Vesper park/library, and the Lowell Center educational garden are all examples of youth/adult horticulture educational sites/events/programs.

As you can see by reading the above examples of areas WCMGVs are involved with, we are very busy all year long. The above are just some examples. I am sure that there are many more activities, events and programs that are ongoing and being hosted by our energetic WCMGVs though out the year! The reason I put this information in writing is to bring to the attention of all WCMGVs that we indeed are doing a super job. We are, however, overloaded with physical work.

Our mission is to educate and share information with our 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. The Master Gardener Program was created by UW Extension to meet an enormous increase in requests from home gardeners for horticultural information. With changes ongoing within the Wisconsin UW Extension, we (WCMGVs) are needed to support and to assist UW Staff by providing information on a wide variety of horticultural topics.

We also can help provide horticultural information to the community by working at Farmers Markets throughout our area. Sue Wilford has purchased a small canopy, a banner (Ask a Master Gardener) and put together horticulture related resource materials that enable members to set-up at local Farm Markets this summer. Check with Sue for more information and how to become involved with this fun and educational event!

Several years ago, we put in place a moratorium—no more new garden projects to be taken

on, funded or maintained forever by WCMGV. The last three years many of our garden sites project leaders have asked for additional help beyond the help of their team members. Even with an offering of double hours, often not enough members came forward to help. We have numerous additional requests for horticultural programs from the community; but for the most part we have had to say “no” as there were no WCMGVs with the time to take on these requests.

All WCMGVs are involved with our current list of projects. I don't foresee our work load being reduced any time soon unless we put our heads together and share ideas. I ask each member, project leader, team member, committee member, board of director member, to seriously review WCMGVs project work load and come up with ideas as to how we can start reducing our work load. This will not happen instantly but it is long past the time to act on this situation. You may send your ideas to my email at [stonegate@tds.net](mailto:stonegate@tds.net). Your ideas will be reviewed by the project authorization committee. In addition, we may have a MG 101 program on this topic.

We need to review all of our projects regardless of the size, type or where located. The goal is to gather ideas about what can be done to reduce the physical work at the projects. Your input and ideas on how to reduce our WCMGVs project workload is very much appreciated. We have so many wonderful projects. There must be a way to reduce our heavy work load so our members can physically handle their project.

Examples to get you thinking:

- Vesper Park/ Library are maintained by two teams (the same members work both teams). We agreed years ago that we could not handle what 30 folks (community volunteers plus WCMGVs) had handled. So we asked the client what their priorities were. The client told us to do whatever was necessary to reduce our workload while keeping projects well maintained/looking good. We have reduced the size of Park Gardens by over 50% and are renovating the current gardens to lower maintenance. We added green space with trees in place of gardens.
- Since the Library gardens were designed and created by the WCMGV we had planned low maintenance gardens right from the start. We continue to work towards lower maintenance in the future. The right plants and mulch will help us to move toward little-to-no maintenance garden.

It takes an entire MG group working together to solve a problem. I look forward to reading your ideas! Your input is appreciated; all ideas will be reviewed and considered. Thank You!

*Ruth Cline*

## Breadseed or opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum*

Native to Southeastern Europe and Western Asia, breadseed poppy, *Papaver somniferum* was cultivated in Europe since the Neolithic era and in America as ornamental plants before 1750. This plant contains narcotic alkaloids which are the active compounds of opium and many refined opiates, such as morphine and codeine. *Somniferum* – meaning “sleep bringing” in Latin – refers to the narcotic properties of the plant. Most of the medicinal opium in the world is produced in India and Turkey. Opium is extracted primarily from the seed capsules. The edible seeds are widely used in baked goods such as bagels, muffins and cakes, and since they contain 40- 50% oil can be pressed for oil for cooking – similar to sesame oil – or for use in oil-based paints.

Posted on [UWEX Master Gardener Program: June 12, 2017](#) by [susan.mahr](#)



*Papaver somniferum* in bloom.

## WCMGVs Help Requested at UW-EX Horticulture Office in Court House

Calling all certified WCMGVs! Your help is requested during the garden season to work at UW-EX Horticulture Office to answer questions coming from the public. Sue Wilford, has been tackling this project by herself, but is anxious to have others help. She can quickly teach volunteers how to answer horticultural questions at the UWEX office. Sue has the material/resources that can walk WCMGVs through the process of answering questions from the public about gardening subjects. See the article on page 13 for more detailed information.

In the office, if people from the public call or visit, they may have questions about insects, weeds or plants. The WCMGV directs the caller through a number of questions to narrow the research needed. The WCMGV uses the resources in the office to find the answer, or, if unsure, can leave the question for Jeremy Erickson. Members earn hours for this project and may include driving time as well. Normally the project takes about two hours each Monday. There will be a sign-up sheet at the May meeting with the Monday dates that have openings for 1 or 2 WCMGVs to work at the Horticulture Office.

The hours, dates and times can be flexible. WCMGVs mission is to provide support to the Horticulture Office as needed. It is our responsibility to offer our services when needed, especially during the peak gardening season. There are 79 certified WCMGVs, so we should be able to cover the request for help May through September. Partner with another WCMGV; two great minds working together, doing Horticulture research can be fun! Thanks in advance! You may email Sue Wilford or Ruth Cline with any questions.

**Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers  
MARS, Marshfield, WI; May 23, 2017; 1.5 Hour Continuing Education**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

**Minutes 4/25/2017:** Bob Cline moved to accept past minutes as written, seconded by Janet Wiemann, motion carried.

**Financial report:** Financial report given by Barb Herreid. Plant sale profit to be between \$2,000-\$2,500. Motion to accept reports as presented was made by Karen Houdek. Seconded by Jeanne Osgood. Motion carried. T-shirts and worm casts available, if ordered.

**Old Business/Announcements:**

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

**WR Plant Sale Report for 2017:** Went well at WR Zoo location on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Raised \$200 more than last year and \$500 more than the year before.

**New Business/Announcements:**

**Extension Update:** Jeremy Erickson report week 5 of MGCV training completed. Needing a few MGCV to give short presentation at beginning of session at 5:30pm in Pittsville. Washington Elementary School looking for MGCV for ½ to 1 hour education on basic gardening principles. Point Central Rivers Farm Shed providing School Garden Education on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Farm Shed at 1220 Briggs Court in Stevens Point are having their plant sale: Thursday & Friday 4-7pm; Saturday 9-1pm.

**Background Checks:** Emailed or mailed forms have come out or will be coming out soon. Need to complete to remain MGCV.

**WR Plant Sale needs Co-Chairs for 2018:** Deb Debyl and Joanne Holden will assist the new co-chairs in transition for 2018.

**Fall Seminar Update – October 28<sup>th</sup> @ UW Marshfield:** See July Newsletter for details.

**Garden Walk July 8<sup>th</sup>:** Posters available for distribution. Tickets for members available. Ticket prices evaluated and will be \$10 no matter when you buy them. Other Garden Walks charge \$12-18. Looking for garden greeters and garden guides. Craft night rescheduled June 6<sup>th</sup>. Garden walk will be videotaped.

**Donated Items for Garden Art Boutique:** Bring items for boutique to June meeting so they can be clean, polished and marked before the walk. Bob & Ruth Cline collecting.

**Need Help at the UW Extension Office:** Extension office needs MGCV to answer gardening questions; Sue Wilford to help with orientation

**Numerous WCMGV projects need help:** Many projects need help and always learn something new when working with other MGCV/projects. Need MGCV to assist with Farmer's Market "Ask a Wood County Master Gardener" both in Marshfield and WR.

**Fall Plant Sale – September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> @ Marshfield Wildwood Park:** Famia Marx has empty pots available to take home for digging up plants.

**Farm Technology Days 2018 July 10-11-12 – Need support from WCMGVs:** Committee meeting 1 hour before each MGCV meeting; anyone welcome to join.

**Project Leaders/Committee/Team Updates/Information Announcements:**

Donna Streiff reported Aster Assisted Living now starting their own gardens after working with MGCV. Sue Wilford reported 2 MGCV needed to set up Pollinator booth at Mead Wildlife Center on June 25<sup>th</sup> for "Winged Wonders" event.

**WCMGV 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrate 2017 – Update from team:** Created trifolds displays for the 7 libraries. Will participate in the Cranberry Blossom Festival parade on June 18<sup>th</sup> in Rapids; will hand out seed packets. Anyone to join. Asking all the projects to promote the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 'something'. Created large wooden '20' signs with information at Wakely gardens.

**MG 101 Mini Programs:** Project to bring us all up to date with facts about MGCV program.

**Additional New Business:**

Micky Erickson reported WCMGV invited to host a Christmas tree at South Wood County Historical Museum. Our theme will be "20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WCMGV". Asking each project to develop an ornament to hang on the tree. Chris Grimes provided refreshments for the evening.

**Motion to Adjourn** at 8:01pm was made by Jeanne Osgood, seconded by Famia Marx, motion carried.

**Next meeting:** June 27 at 7pm at Our Lady Queen of Heaven School Garden with Eliz Erdman

Respectfully Submitted -- Sue Wilford, Secretary

**Members Attending:** Nancy Alger, Shirley Anderson, Sandra Artz, Jim Bove, Annette Bowden, Debby Brown, Audrey Brundidge, Lynn Bushmaker, Julie Carlsen, Bob Cline, Ruth Cline, Mary Czaja, Debra Debyl, Liz Erdman, Micky Erickson, Jennifer Fane, Christine Griffith, Chris Grimes, Peg Harvey, Barb Herreid, Joanne Holden, Karen Houdek, Barb Kleifgen, Paula Klevene, Denise Larson, Famia Marx, Gail Meyer, Judy Miller, Tammera Neumann, Diane Nickel, Jim Nickel, Kay O'Shasky, Jeanne Osgood, Patricia Paulus, Kathy Poehnel, Karleen Remington, Gail Snorheim, Judy Sternitzky, Roberta Stolt, Donna Streiff, Carol Tomke, Apollonia Virsnieks, Margaret Weister, Janet Wiemann, Sue Wilford, Marlene Winters, Mary Zahn. UW Extension Educator: Jeremy Erickson. Guests: Pat, Carol Tomke's sister and Deb King.

**Meeting Program:** Donna Streiff presented "Growing-Drying-Using Herbs" and MGCV plant exchange. WCMGV Mini 101 by Karleen Remington.

## WCMGV Required Hours Reminder

Amazingly, we are almost half way through the year! This is just a gentle reminder of what is required for WCMGVs to certify for 2017. Volunteer and continuing education hours **MUST** be turned in to UW Extension, WR Courthouse by October 1st, 2017. The timesheet must be filled out and submitted via email, US mail or in person at UW Ex. Office at Wood County Courthouse in WR. A minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service, and 10 hours of continuing education are required annually to recertify.

If you are having difficulty finding areas in which to earn hours—either volunteer service or continuing education—please contact Ruth Cline or any board member for suggested areas. Do not wait to earn hours until a week before hours are to be submitted. Remember our calendar for 2017 hours is October 1st, 2016 to September 30th, 2017. Let us work together to meet our goal: every member turning in the required number of hours in each area on or before October 1st, 2017.

## WCMGV T-Shirts

### A Few T-Shirts Remaining

I have a few extra WCMGV t-shirts available in the following sizes/ colors:

- |   |                    |             |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| 3 | Light Blue         | Extra Large |
| 1 | Light Steel (gray) | Medium      |

The price \$12. If you're interested, please contact Barb Herreid ([bherreid@wctc.net](mailto:bherreid@wctc.net) or 715-325-2075)



## WCMGV Open Board Positions

Attention all certified WCMGV members: the Board of Directors will have three vacant positions to be filled in 2018. The three positions are:

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Director from South Wood County area.**

This is an opportunity to learn more about the WCMGVA operations, provide support to the organization and to the UW Extension from which we are founded, plus earn volunteer hours. The BOD meets quarterly each year for about 3 hours each meeting. We typically meet on Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at UW Extension office or MARS. For more information and/or to submit your name as an interested candidate for any of the above positions, please contact Ruth Cline [stonegate@tds.net](mailto:stonegate@tds.net). The elections take place in November 2017, and the positions start January 1st, 2018.

# Master Gardener 101

**Master Gardener 101:** Part 2 of our Master Gardener 101 series took place at the May meeting. The discussion was based on the questions below which chart the relationships of WCMGV to University Extension and the University of Wisconsin system. Take the quiz below and then check your answers against the key at the bottom of the page.

## Master Gardener 101: Our Organization

Instructions: Fill in the empty blanks or check the correct endings to each question below.

1. The Master Gardener program is ultimately answerable to what authority in the University of Wisconsin hierarchy? \_\_\_\_\_
2. UW-Extension serves Wisconsin to all its borders in which of the following program areas?  
 a. local government and community development  
 b. environment and natural resources  
 c. 4-H and youth programs  
 d. farming  
 e. nutrition, food and health  
 f. home and family  
 g. lawn and garden/horticulture  
 h. economic development, business and finance
3. Mike Maddox directs/makes policies and Susan Mahr coordinates/carries out policies for which of the following?  
 a. UW-Extension  
 b. WIMGA (Wisconsin Master Gardener Association)  
 c. UW-Extension Master Gardener Program
4. Jeremy, our horticulture agent, was hired by \_\_\_\_\_ and is immediately directed by \_\_\_\_\_. (Name the organization, not a person.)
5. The primary mission of the Wisconsin MG program is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. All print materials that bear the Wisconsin MG logo or verbal communications at a MG activity are to be grounded in/based on horticultural \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A Wisconsin Master Gardener organization  
 a. is found in each county of our state.  
 b. could form independent of any connection to the university system.  
 c. has membership requirements that include basic training plus volunteer and education hours.  
 d. can't allow an individual to participate if that person failed a background check.  
 e. can't allow an individual to participate without mandatory reporter training.  
 f. may choose to allow a non-voting membership.

KEY: 1. Board of Regents; 2. Check all endings; 3. (c); 4. Wood County & University Extension; 5. Education; 6. research or science; 7. (c) (d) (e) blank (f) could be either since the new background check requirement MAY no longer allow non-voting participation

## Youth Education Hours Opportunity

Are you interested in helping out with a School Garden Project in Wisconsin Rapids? Wood County Farm to School has been working hard at rejuvenating the school garden at Washington Elementary and is wondering if **Master Gardeners** might be willing to give a 1/2 hour to 1 hour **workshop on ideas, tips, and how-to's on planting a garden**. The garden will be used by families and residents that live near the school.

Please email me ([jerickson@co.wood.wi.us](mailto:jerickson@co.wood.wi.us)) if you are interested.

Thank you,

Jeremy Erickson

Horticulture Educator

UW-Extension Wood County

## 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.



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 Herreid at 715-325-2075 or visit

<https://wood-county-master-gardeners.org>

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

## 2017 Master Gardener Volunteer Programs

Date/Time	Location	Topic/Guest Speaker
June 27 7 pm	Wi Rapids	Our Lady Queen of Heaven School Garden Eliz Erdmann
July 25 6 pm	Marshfield Wildwood Zoo	Using Native in a "Know" Maintenance Planting 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	MARS	Italy with Paula Klevene

## 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

**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). Tickets available at both gardens.

**June 25th:** Winged Wonders – an event to celebrate Mead Wildlife National Pollinators. WCMGV will set-up/staff a booth. Theme is “native bees”. Adults will receive CE hours by attending Adult Programs at this event. Great event to earn hours!

**June 27th:** 6 p.m. Farm Tech. Team Meeting prior to Membership meeting. All MCMGVs welcome.

**June 27th:** June Membership Meeting, 7 p.m., Our Lady Queen of Heaven School Garden, WR

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

**July 24th:** WCMGV BOD meeting 5:30 p.m. MARS

**July 25th:** July Membership Meeting, 6 p.m., Marshfield Zoo

**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.

# June Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Pinch off one-half inch of chrysanthemums when they are six inches tall and continue pinching through June.
- Pinch annuals when 4-6 inches tall to promote growth.
- Give peonies 2-3 applications of complete fertilizer two weeks before flowering. Disbud several branches for bigger flowers on remaining buds. Stake before buds open.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs (lilacs, forsythia, honeysuckle, hydrangea, mock orange, privet, snowball, spirea, viburnum and weigela) after flowering. Apply annual application of fertilizer.
- Prune junipers, arborvitae, yews and hemlock any time during late spring or early summer.
- Water flower beds weekly during dry periods.
- Remove spent flowers and weeds from gardens and add mulch.
- Dig and divide non-blooming daffodils.
- For large dahlia blooms, prune all but one shoot per clump.
- Cut back delphiniums after blooming.
- Control leaf blight on tomatoes by disposing of diseased foliage or plants immediately and planting disease-resistant varieties.
- Before setting out tomato cages, disinfect with a 10% bleach solution. Control fruit anthracnose and other disease problems by staking plants, maintaining optimal plant spacing and using mulches.
- Plant peppers, eggplant, sweet potatoes and late potatoes.
- Plant successive crops of beans, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, corn, turnips, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower.
- Spray cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli to control cabbage worm and cabbage looper.
- Stop harvesting asparagus by month-end. Weed asparagus bed carefully after harvesting to avoid damage to roots.
- Prune evergreens.
- Prune out lilac seed heads.
- Treat lawns that are infected with cutworms and armyworms with parasitic nematodes.
- If fertilizing lawn two times per year, apply in June and October; if three times per year, apply in early June, early Sept and mid- to late Oct.
- Continue applying fungicide on trees and small fruits.
- Prune suckers from fruit trees.
- Apply sticky bands to fruit trees to catch insect pests that climb the trunks.
- Pinch black and purple raspberry shoots.



## Community Education

**Sodden Succulents- Creating a Boot or Shoe Garden** - Wednesday, July 19, 2017: 3-4:30 pm for **youth ages 8 to 18** at the Vesper Library. Presenters: Peg Klinkhammer and Sue Wilford.

*Have you ever seen plants growing in an old shoe? In an old boot? Come to have some fun and learn how to grow your garden in a shoe or boot. Bring an old pair of shoes or boots—a pair you don't want to ever wear again. We all have those stuck at the back of our closet or in our basements. It could be a rain boot or a cowboy boot; a tennis shoe or a fancy dress shoe. We will decorate the Outdoor Gallery with our fancy planters!*



[Joe Mabel](#) / Creative Commons

## Fall Plant Sale

Although it's only June, all members please consider contributing which plants you would like to donate to the fall sale--looking for beautiful/named hostas, daylilies and irises and most other perennials and trees will have at least a month to get acclimated in their new home before the cold sets in.

Also we are still looking for dried items for arrangements. Many plants are going to seed already. Please save what you can, so we can have plenty of stems to work with.

Thanks; I will be picking these items up at the meetings or call /email if you need help.

Famia 715-652-2405 [mapallc@tds.net](mailto:mapallc@tds.net)

## Wisconsin Rapids Plant Sale Team Needs Co-chairs for 2018

The current co-chairs have retired from organizing the Wisconsin Rapids Plant Sale. The past co-chairs and their team have organized a very successful plant sale for several years. They wish to take a break and are willing to share information about organizing this plant sale with WCMGVs who are interested in being Co-Chairs for this event. Members with interest in being a co-chair and/or on the team are encouraged to contact Deb Debyl or Joanne Holden to find out more information about the W.R. Plant Sale. This plant sale moved to a new home in 2017; Helen's Zoo House is now home to the sale. This sale is one of three fundraisers that provide funding for WCMGV educational programs/public garden projects.

## Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers 20th Anniversary 2017

Four WCMGVs met to brainstorm an idea to help celebrate WCMGV 20th anniversary. They created Tri-fold displays to be set-up in all seven libraries in the WCMGV area. In addition, the team created bookmarks, and unique horticulture displays which include brochures about WCMGV. The team took the celebration one step forward by signing up to be a unit in the Cranberry Blossom Festival parade in Wisconsin Rapids. At the Festival, WCMGV members carried a banner and handed out seed packets and bookmarks to folks along the parade route. Later in the year, they will present each of the seven libraries a complementary copy of our very own WCMGV Anniversary cookbook.

This team, whose members all work at the Wakely Gardens, included their WCMGV garden project in the celebration by making brochures to explain their project. This was included with a wooden anniversary sign which they also created. In addition to celebrating WCMGV 20 years, these four members keep busy maintaining their WCMGV garden project the Wakely Gardens in Nekoosa. Thank you Annette Bowden, Julie Carlson, Paula Klevene and Barb Kleifgen! The unique tri-fold displays will serve WCMGV beyond the 2017 20th celebration as they were designed to be used in future educational programs by just updating the information. One tri-fold will be on display at Mead Wild Life Winged Wonders, June 25th. WCMGVs will have a booth at this event.

### Continuing Education Report: Upcoming Fall Seminar

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

## RHI—Responding to Horticulture Inquiries

Responding to Horticulture Inquires is just a fancy name for answering the public's gardening questions. This is the name the Wisconsin Extension calls their one day seminars in the spring for all Master Gardeners, which are so informative. There have been a few MGV from Wood county attending, and I hope that in future years you will take the opportunity to attend.

Since the University of Wisconsin Extension is asking us to focus more on 'public education', I want to share one of the sessions from the RHI day called , "Strategies for Effectively Answering Horticulture Questions in a County UW-Extension Office." This session will be discussed over the next few months in our newsletter, so look for future follow-up articles in the coming months.

This month I want to focus on MGV being Plant Health Advisors. MGVs are to provide research based advice and resources to county residents. Plant Health Advisors are one of the most important outreach tool for MGV and UW-Extension. We answer county resident's questions out of the extension office, at farmer's markets, at libraries and many other venues. Most people recognize that MGV are a great resource to answer plant and insect questions. They think we are the experts and know everything. Of course, we know that is not so. We certainly don't feel like experts.

As a MGV, that is a big responsibility because we don't know everything. The biggest fears are: What are they calling about? Will I know the answer? Am I skilled enough? So how can we tackle these fears? You must remember that you don't have to have all the answers off the top of your head. You can tell them, "I'll have to do some research on that and call you back." Or if you are new to Master Gardening, say, "I am a new Master Gardener. I will need to look this up and check with a fellow Master Gardener and I will get back to you." It is important to familiarize yourself with the resources you have available. There are publications, fact sheets, specialists, reference books, extension sites from other states and our own Wood County Extension office. By using all of these resources, we can find out the answers by doing some digging. Sometimes we even come up with more questions than answers. This also is a way to expand our own knowledge beyond the basic Level 1 MGV training.

Since we are an outreach of the UW Extension system, we want to give the customer the best possible experience. We never want to make them feel "stupid" or that they have a 'stupid question.' That seems obvious, but a simple thing to remember. We want the customer to be at ease when telling us their issue, so making them as comfortable as possible, is important. Remember they think you know everything and they can be intimidated by your words or non-verbal actions.

Tell the customer right up front that you are going to ask them lots of questions to help them diagnose the problem. This is similar to a doctor asking questions to help them diagnosis an illness without ever seeing the patient. If possible, you could have them send in a picture or bring in a sample to the extension office. Sometimes describing the symptom is difficult for the customer. The MGV may have to clarify or rephrase to get a better description. Asking questions about the size, color, location, etc. are important to get a better description. Also realize that colors are not perceived the same by everyone. We also want to make sure we are both talking about the same plant. A customer may call it a pine tree, when they really have a fir or spruce tree. Also asking if the plant is an annual or perennial is also helpful as there are some that have both forms, such as Salvia, Rudbeckis, Hibiscus, etc.

Once you have done your research, these are some helpful handy phrases that you can use with customers:

"UW-Extension recommendations are....."

"Do you have internet access? If not, we can mail you the publications or fact sheet"

"We have a publication (or fact sheet) on that problem that I can send you a link to."

Over the next two months, I will focus on being a plant/insect detective and how to go about diagnosing the problem.....

Submitted by Sue Wilford

# 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**  
[swilford@tds.net](mailto:swilford@tds.net)  
715-652-6129

**Treasurer—Barb Herreid**  
[bherreid@wctc.net](mailto:bherreid@wctc.net)  
715-325-2075

**Director—Karleen Remington**  
[remington@tznet.com](mailto:remington@tznet.com)  
715-387-1863

**Director—Bob Cline**  
[stonegate@tds.net](mailto:stonegate@tds.net)  
715-569-4202

**Director—Karen Houdek**  
[khoudek842@aol.com](mailto:khoudek842@aol.com)  
513-823-1312

**Director—Donna Streiff**  
[streiffonclay@tds.net](mailto:streiffonclay@tds.net)  
715-207-6218

**Communications Rep.—Chris Grimes**  
[chgrimes@wctc.net](mailto:chgrimes@wctc.net)  
715-424-2878

**Historian-South—Michaeleen Erikson**  
[GaryMicky@charter.net](mailto:GaryMicky@charter.net)  
175-435-3616

**Historian North—Position Open**

**Immediate Past President and WIMGA Rep—Barb Herreid**  
[bherreid@wctc.net](mailto:bherreid@wctc.net)  
715-325-2075

**Newsletter Editor**  
**Peg Klinkhammer**  
[mklinkhammer@assumptio.ncatholicschools.org](mailto:mklinkhammer@assumptio.ncatholicschools.org)  
715-569-4271  
Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 10th of the month.

**Public Relations Chair**  
**Karen Thlachac**  
[ktlachac@yahoo.com](mailto:ktlachac@yahoo.com)  
715-697-3911

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.

## Bountiful Harvest Cookbook Update

At the April Board meeting, the board approved continuing to sell the cookbooks for \$18 each, but if buying two or more, the cost would be \$15/book. Seven cookbooks are being donated to the 7 local libraries in celebration of our 20th Anniversary. If you would still like to get a copy of the cookbook, contact Sue Wilford.

