

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

September 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

Cranberry Program by Matt Lippert

September 26, 7:00 pm: Wood County Court House

Cranberry Program followed by Business Meeting @ 7:00

Everyone who lives in our great state has driven through a cranberry marsh or two or three! Come and hear our Extension Agent, Matt Lippert, tell us how (with over 60% of the US crop) the humble cranberry figures into not only our state's but also our local economy! Matt has been with the Wood County Extension since 2003 and is part of the Central Wisconsin Agricultural Specialization Group

where he serves as the Dairy and Cranberry production specialist.



Micro Greens by Jeremy Erickson

October 24, 7:00 pm: MARS

Micro greens are the young seedlings of vegetables and herbs that are harvested less than 14 days after germination. They are usually 1-3 inches long and can be very colorful. Micro greens are a lot like sprouts but bigger. Scientific tests have shown that micro greens can have up to forty times more vital nutrients than mature vegetables and herbs! Jeremy will show us how we can grow our own micro greens at home for a nutritionally powerful addition to an already healthy salad.

Business meeting to follow.



- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ Responding to Horticultural Inquiries
- ◆ WCMGV Required Hours
- ◆ Horticulture Education Center: WR Zoo
- ◆ CE Hours
- ◆ Christmas Tree Walk
- ◆ Fall Seminar
- ◆ WCMGV Meetings and notices
- ◆ Invasive Jumping Worms
- ◆ WCMGV July Minutes
- ◆ WCMGVs at the Marshfield Fair
- ◆ Ask a Wood County Master Gardener



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From the President's Notebook

The month to finish harvesting produce, to begin to put our gardens to bed for the winter and to enjoy the colorful outdoors is September. I still have peppers to pick and prepare for the freezer. I also prepare and freeze apple slices for apple crisp this winter--served warm with Greek vanilla yogurt on top with a dash of nutmeg! Yummy!

You may have noticed leaves starting to fall and colored leaves peeking out here and there. The Wisconsin Color Report stated that our color

season is starting early in many areas and will end a week or two earlier than normal. Enjoy chasing the colors; just go online and type in Wisconsin Color Report. This report covers the entire state and details where and when to see the best color. It also includes fall events. One of my favorite "travel to areas" in fall is Wisconsin Hwy 35 which winds through quaint villages and apple orchards that border the beautiful Mississippi River. The other area is the Horicon Marsh in Dodge County which takes one back to the ice age and is home to a variety of water fowl, song birds and endless trails throughout the marsh to explore. Grab your camera and enjoy all that fall in Wisconsin has to offer!

In the August newsletter I highlighted some programs WCMGVs presented in 2017 that focus on education, both of ourselves as MCMGVs and the community. I will highlight a few more below:

Our Lady Queen of Heaven School Garden: Eliz Erdmann and her talented students gave us an inside look and tour of the school garden which is maintained by the students, under the direction of Eliz and other adults. It was obvious that the youth had studied how to plant and take care of a garden by the stories they related to our group of WCMGVs as we toured each section of the garden. The students fielded questions from the WCMGVs on the tour and provided detailed answers!

Growing, Drying & Using Herbs: Donna Streiff shared her interest in the growing and use of herbs in a variety of foods. We learned that herbs grown in our gardens are superior in flavor to those purchased dry in a bottle. We learned that herbs are easy to grow, can be used in dried arrangements, and can add flavor to our food. Growing and drying herbs can be done by everyone. We viewed photos of a variety of common herbs just to perk our interest in cooking with herbs.

Ask a Master Gardener: Sue Wilford has spent many hours organizing WCMGVs "Ask a Master Gardener" program. She wrote and received a WIMGA grant to purchase the materials needed for the program. Sue works a long side other members who volunteer to

take a turn at the Farmers Markets and work Mondays at UW Extension office. This program brings WCMGVs face to face with the public and their horticulture related questions.

Project Evaluation comments provided by project leaders/teams which reflected the educational value of our projects were also shared in last newsletter. Here are a few more comments!

Our organic-only growing methods gardens interact with seniors, youth, families, and community. We grow a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers which are enjoyed by many! We offer programs, educational material and a wide variety of fun and educational activities for youth and adults. We had about 200 conversations with seniors about what, how and why we are growing! This project reaches a special group!

Gardens located on street busy with walkers; gardens used for many picture taking events. Nineteen different gardens offer shade and sun garden ideas, plus space for companion plantings and the layering of plants to provide an all season visual impact for those who pass by. Plant Signage helps educate public.

Urns planted with red, white and blue flowers, enhance Veterans Memorial site. Site is visited by many people.

Planters compliment museum gardens. Add a variety of raised blooms all summer.

Locations do not invite interaction with public. We added signage, educational brochure holder/handouts and other plants with more blooms and appeal to those people driving by.

A raised garden makes flowers and signage easier to view. Site is a business area visited by numerous visitors who enjoy the colorful garden as they walk by. Both shade/sun gardens are planted as examples of plant types.

Most of WCMGVs garden projects are still blooming throughout Wood County and borders. Enjoy a fall garden walk with your garden friends and visit the variety of gardens designed and maintained by WCMGVs. Farm Markets and Apple Orchards are at their peak with fall produce. By now you should have received an email with information about Jumping Worms. Even though we have not heard of this type of worm in Wood County, we need to be aware that they are close by. Portage County has found them, and that county is just a jump away from Wood County! More information will be provided in the future about the Jumping Worm.

Please remember all forms are due October 1st to UW Extension Office! Questions, please contact Ruth Cline or any Board member. Thanks very much!

Enjoy the beauty of fall!

Ruth Cline

Some of the most beautiful things in life cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart.

~~~Helen Keller~~~

## RHI—Responding to Horticulture Inquiries

### Article #4

For the last three months, the RHI articles addressed how to answer horticultural questions from the public. They were based on a lecture called, “Strategies for Effectively Answering Horticulture Questions in a County UW-Extension Office.” This lecture was given at the Marathon County Extension office coordinated by the State Extension office in May, 2017.

The June newsletter article described how WCMGVs provide customer service as employees/volunteers of the extension office. The July newsletter addressed the first two steps of the process. The August newsletter addressed step 3 – collecting information from the client and step 4 – researching the problem. This month, I want to focus on tips to remember when asking the client questions. Next month, I will address step 5 and 6. The basic steps for Diagnosing Plant Problems are:

1. Identify the problem
2. Identify signs and symptoms
3. Collect information from client
4. Research the problem
5. Collect resources
6. Follow up with client

When asking questions of the client, remember to include:

- Questions about the plant, the site, the symptoms, when they started, plant care and construction in the area.
- Look for patterns:
- Leaf spot disease vs. vascular wilts
- Chewing insect damage vs. sucking insect damage
- Ask for a digital photo or sample if possible. A visual inspection may still not be helpful and a sample may need to be sent to the state lab.
- When did the problem start?
- How was the plant planted?
- What is the site like?
- Backyard or terrace?
- Near pavement (could the plant have been exposed to excess salt?)
- How long has it been in the ground?
- Do they see girdling roots or ‘telephone pole’ trunk for trees?
- Soil test? (pH problems, texture)
- Soil compaction?
- Grade changes?
- Light condition?
- Watering regimen?
- Fertilizer?

- Mulching?

Plant problems can be caused by:

- Environmental factors
  - Planting errors/site changes
  - Soil (compaction, nutrient deficiency)
  - Light
  - Water
  - Improper care
  - Pollution
  - Weather (temperature - day and night)
- Disease pathogens
  - Leaf spots & discoloration
  - Necrosis and blights
  - Stem cankers
  - Over-growth
  - Distorted growth
  - Wilting
- Insects – chewing, sucking, borers
  - Signs of insects or mites
    - Eggs, larvae, nymphs, pupae, adults
    - Fecal spots
    - Sawdust (frass)
    - Borer holes
    - Webs
    - Cocoons
    - Shed skins
  - Symptoms of insects or mites
    - Chewing or sucking damage on foliate
    - Discoloration caused by feeding
    - Galls
    - Brooding
    - Stickiness from honeydew associated with sooty mold fungus
    - Wilting due to borer damage.



### THANK YOU

A special thanks to the people that worked the weekend, donated, dug and potted the plants, and helped in whatever capacity they could to help make our annual fall fundraiser a success.

Famia

There are many things that can affect plants. You do not need to know them all. Rather it is better to think in patterns and categories, when asking your questions of the client. Gather as much information as possible and take extensive notes, in order to get a clear picture of the situation.

Next month we will explore Step 5 — collecting the research based documentation and Step 6 — following up with the client.

## WCMGV Required Hours Reminder

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.](#)

## Hours Information: Please read and comply

**Intern MGVs – those people who completed the MG Training in 2017—** record volunteer hours for initial certification. Additional Continuing Education hours are **NOT** required the first year (but you may record them anyway). A minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service are required. People who completed the MG Training in 2017 have one year from date of their training to earn the minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service.

**MGVs recertifying** – record both volunteer and continuing education hours. A minimum of 24 of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education hours are required annually.

Please note: **MGVs that did not earn enough hours to certify for 2018 should still record the hours they did earn in 2017 and send the form in by Oct. 1st. If you plan to continue in the MG Program, next year you must earn 24 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education hours in 2018 and submit an hour sheet by Oct. 1st 2018.**

All volunteer projects and C.E. should be for UW Extension sponsored programs or projects or community or civic group projects or programs, and **should be approved by local sponsoring UW Extension Agent. Travel time** based on the time a MGV leaves home until returning home, minus personal errands, and **preparation and research time** on projects can be included in volunteer service hours. (Travel time to CE programs **cannot be counted.**)

Record volunteer hours by the categories listed on the instructions on your yearly record sheet. It is very important to record your volunteer hours correctly in the three columns. The data is used when reporting to the state; your numbers do count!! Please note there are two questions at the bottom of your hours form regarding your plans for 2018. It is very important that you check one of these options. Thank you for filling out your hour form completely and on time. Being complete and on time helps the record keeper fill out state forms in a timely manner!

## Horticulture Education Center: Wisconsin Rapids Zoo

Every summer the Wisconsin Rapids Zoo welcomes over 200 visitors each day to view the gardens and animals at the Zoo. Each garden has an educational theme. For example, visitors will find Grandma's Cottage Garden, a Meditation Garden, Butterfly Garden, Shade Garden, Companion Gardening, and many others. To support each theme we have educational materials in the Horticulture Education Center. Visitors might find a "bee" sign or a "butterfly" sign in the gardens. Those signs tell the visitor that there is more information on the butterfly and bee in the Horticulture Education Center. The garden plant indexes are also housed in the Horticulture Education Center. Gardening magazines are available for the visitors. Handouts are from the UW-Extension on all kinds of gardening subjects. Children's handouts are available to color or take home. Anything that is happening in the gardens at the Zoo is supported by the Horticulture Education Center.



## WCMGV Continuing Education Hours

Dates accepted are from Oct. 1, 2016 to Sep. 30, 2017. Besides the educational programs presented at our monthly meetings we may count events you have attended such as Garden Expo, Garden Visions, tours of public gardens, visits to botanical gardens, etc. Also you may get hours for TV and radio shows such as WPR's Garden Talk with Larry Meiller, or other garden podcasts.

|                                              |           |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Oct. 15, 2016 Fall Seminar                   | 3.5 hours |
| Oct. 25, 2016 Garlic By Brigitte Varga       | 1 hour    |
| March 28, 2017 Florida Everglades: Jan Sabin | 1.5 hours |
| Apr 8, 2017 Spring Seminar                   | 3 hours   |
| Apr. 26, 2017 Roses; Tom Ptak                | 2 hours   |
| May 23, 2017 Herbs; Donna Streif             | 1.5 hours |
| Jun 27, 2017 Tour OLQH ; Eliz Erdmann        | 1 hour    |
| Jul 25, 2017 Wildwood Zoo; Kathy Poehnell    | 1 hour    |
| Aug 22, 2017 Tour WR Com Gardens K Houdek    | 1 hour    |
| Sep 26, 2017 Cranberries; Matt Lippert       | 1 hour    |

## Christmas Tree Walk and MG 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The South Wood County Historical Museum is again hosting a Christmas Tree Walk during December, 2017. Last Year, the Museum MGs decorated a tree using dried plant materials from the museum gardens along with your contributions.

Since this year is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for WCMGA, the theme of the tree will be our anniversary of education, community service projects, etc. What we could use from all the projects is a picture of your project. We will add titles and put the pictures into a decorative cardstock frame. We will also be using the displays and materials the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary team placed in the local libraries.

In addition some dried plant materials will also be added to the tree, but to a lesser extent than last year.

We will keep reminding you of this event for a while, but if you have questions, please contact Micky Erickson or Chris Griffith.



### 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

## WCMGV Meetings and Notices

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

**September 26:** 6 p.m. (prior to membership meeting) Farm Technology Team meeting—all WCMGVs welcome to attend. Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.— WI Rapids Courthouse

**October 1:** Volunteer Hours Form **DUE** at UWEX office (24 volunteer hours and 10 Continuing Education hours needed for recertification)

**October 24:** Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.— MARS

**October 28:** Fall Garden Seminar — UW Marshfield

**November 28:** November Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.— MARS

### Planning ahead for 2018

**April 14, 2018:** Marshfield Children's Festival (more news later). Please announce your planning meeting dates.

**April 21, 2018:** Wisconsin Rapids Children's Festival (more news later). Please announce your planning meeting dates.

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. Many members wish to attend and help with various WCMGV events. Please let Chris Grimes or newsletter editor know dates and times as soon as they are scheduled. Members are always looking for ways to earn hours.

## Invasive Jumping Worms Found in Portage County

Jumping worms are a harmful invasive species. They are voracious eaters and live off the organic layer of soil devouring essential nutrients needed by plants and insects. Also, jumping worms leave the soil grainy can inhibit germination and destabilize the root structure of plants. Because of these reasons, and unlike many other invasive species, the Jumping Worm poses a threat to natural habitat, horticulture and agriculture.



Jumping worms are easy to identify by their erratic behavior, they thrash wildly and can shed their tails in defense. You can view videos and picture of jumping worms at [www.portage.uwex.edu](http://www.portage.uwex.edu) which can help you with identification. If you want to be certain, you can bring live worms to the Portage County UW-Extension office in the annex building for identification or call 715-346-1316. There is no cost for the identification.

The Wisconsin DNR is asking people to report jumping worms and other invasive species via email at [invasive.species@wi.gov](mailto:invasive.species@wi.gov).

Denise Rocha

Support Staff

Portage County UW-Extension

(715) 346-1316

**Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers**  
**Growing Friends: Wisconsin Rapids Community Gardens, August 22, 2017; 1 Hour Continuing Education**

**Meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm.** Thank you to Karen Houdek for Wisconsin Rapids Community Garden tour.

**Minutes 7/25/2017:** One correction, date of meeting listed as 7/27/2017 should be 7/25/2017. Janet Wiemann moved to accept past minutes as written with date correction, seconded by Peg Harvey, motion carried.

**Financial report:** Financial report given by Barb Herreid. Motion to accept reports as presented was made by Mary Czaja. Seconded by Sandy Artz. Motion carried. Garden Walk profits of \$6,113 which was best ever and \$1,400 more than last year.

**Old Business/Announcements:**

**Info Table/sign-in:** Attendance sign-in passed around.

Plastic covers for logo table cloths are missing; anyone who knows whereabouts should contact Ruth Cline.

**New Business/Announcements:**

**Extension Update:** Jeremy Erickson reported volunteer hours are due by October 1<sup>st</sup> to the extension office by mail or email. If in need of hours or any questions, contact Jeremy Erickson.

**Fair Judging and WCMGV Booth needs help:** MGJV needed to help with 4-H entries from 2-8pm on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Anyone available, contact Jeremy Erickson. WCMGV will have a 'Ask a Wood County Master Gardener' booth at the Fair from Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> to Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sent around for 2 and 3 hour shifts from 10am to 3pm, daily.

**Fall Seminar Update – October 28<sup>th</sup> @ UW Marshfield:** Speakers: Ben Futa and Rob Zimmer. Posters and envelopes distributed. Next meeting will have sign up for attendance and refreshments.

**Fall Plant Sale – September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> @ Marshfield Wildwood Park:** Peg Harvey doing one more dig at the Clock Tower on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 10am. Posters available for distribution. Sign-up sheet sent around for working Friday – Sunday at the plant sale. Mary Czaja made available the wooden frames for scarecrows.

**Project Leaders/Committee/Team Updates/Information:** Ruth Cline will be contacting project leaders about any education programs they provided for adults or children to include this info in the 2017 'Accomplishment Report.'

**Educational Grant Ideas for 2017 – due Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to Ruth Cline.** Any ideas for education grants from WIMGA are due to WIMGA by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WCMGV Form Packet in August newsletter includes bylaws:** All forms were included in the August newsletter. Use these forms instead of the internet forms, as they have not been updated.

**Additional New Business:** MGJV need 4 things to be certified. 1) Caregiver Background Check; 2) Mandatory Reporting education; 3) 24 hours of volunteering; and 4) 10 hours of continuing education. If these requirements are not met by October 1<sup>st</sup>, is not certified as a WCMGV.

**Motion to Adjourn** at 7:20 pm was made by Mary Czaja, seconded by Karen Houdek, motion carried

**Next meeting:** September 26<sup>th</sup> 7pm Wood County Court House

Respectfully Submitted – Sue Wilford, Secretary

*Members Attending: Nancy Alger, Shirley Anderson, Sandra Artz, Annette Bowden, Debby Brown, Audrey Brundidge, Lynn Bushmaker, Julie Carlsen, Bob Cline, Ruth Cline, Mary Czaja, Debra DeByl, Jennifer Fane, Laurie Francis, Peg Harvey, Betty Havlik, Barb Herreid, Joanne Holden, Karen Houdek, Barb Kleifgen, Paula Klevene, Bea Kohl, Scott MacMillan, Gail Meyer, Judy Miller, Kay O'Shasky, Jeanne Osgood, Patricia Paulus, Deb Rokke, Janet Sabin, Marjorie Schenk, Roberta Stolt, Connie Stout, Donna Streiff, Apollonia Virsnieks, Janet Wiemann, Sue Wilford, Penn Wilkes, Marlene Winters, UW Extension Educator: Jeremy Erickson.*

**Meeting Program:** "Growing Friends: Wisconsin Rapids Community Gardens" by Karen Houdek

## WCMGVs Booth and Junior Fair Judging at Central Wisconsin State Fair Marshfield 2017

WCMGVs once again provided help at the fair this year. We assisted with Junior Fair Plant & Soil Science and Flowers & House Plants Departments face-to-face judging on August 29. It is an education just listening to the conversations between the judge and the youth exhibitors. We assist with paper work, organize judged exhibits on shelves, assist the judges as needed, and answer questions. It is a valuable event for the youth who have spent a year learning about their projects and caring for them. Face-to-face type of judging helps exhibitors learn directly from the judge about their project, their knowledge of project and the amount of work put forth; as well as learn new information exhibitors can use for improvements.

In 2017, WCMGVs ventured out to a new area. We had been setting up an "Ask a Master Gardener" booth at various Farmer's Markets and events in Central Wisconsin this summer and decided to take the booth on the road to the fairgrounds. We expanded our booth at the fair to include educational displays created by the WCMGVs 20th Anniversary Team. These displays had already appeared during the summer at the seven libraries located throughout Central Wisconsin. They were a big hit with the public, as each informative display included educational materials for the public to take home and learn more about the WCMGVs and gardening. Our booth was set-up in Expo II building which is just across the road from the Gazebo gardens maintained by WCMGV Joyce Fischer and Team. We set-up a banner and sign near the gardens to direct fair goers to our booth. The gazebo gardens received numerous visitors who also visited our booth with horticultural related questions. During the 6-day fair we staffed the booth 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., except on Labor Day, which was staffed part time. Numerous fairgoers stopped at the booth to talk gardening! We handed out brochures, educational materials, and fall seminar and plant sale info. Several visitors dropped off samples of plant materials and bugs to identify. An "Ask a MG" form was available for the public to fill out if we could not provide an answer to the question from the education materials we had on-hand. Those forms have been reviewed, research completed and the answer has been forwarded to the questioner. The fair invited us back next year, and would like us to do demonstrations, if possible. We would need two booths if we decide to have demonstrations. It was a very successful event. I personally look forward to attending the fair each year. The creativity and project work of exhibitors both youth and adult is amazing. We plan to have a booth and add demonstrations for the 2018 fair. This is a major educational program! We need more volunteers for this program. Can we count on you? Look for the fair program on the Annual Membership Renewal Form.

## Ask a Wood County Master Gardener

As some of you may have heard, we now have a "Ask a Wood County Master Gardener" booth at the Marshfield Farmers Market. This initiative serves as a way to get out and be interactive with the community, puts a face to the Wood County Master Gardener Association, and also serves as a resource for the public to visit us at the Farmers Market and ask about different horticultural topics. We are looking to duplicate this effort at the Wisconsin Rapids Farmers Market on Thursday mornings from about 9am-12noon. This will count towards Volunteer Service Hours, under Adult and/or Youth Education. If you are interested, please contact Jeremy Erickson.

We will also be setting up a 'Ask a Master Gardener' booth at the fair this year and we are looking for volunteers to help answer questions from fair attendees and be a face for the WCMGA. Again, please contact Jeremy if you are interested in helping with either of these.

**Everyone is invited** to join the meeting on Tuesday, October 2-3:30 pm at the Extension Office to discuss what the future of 'Ask a Wood County Master Gardener' will look like for our organization. This meeting will be a 'brain storming' session. Then we can bring our ideas to the next Board meeting for discussion and confirmation. Currently we are trying to staff the Extension Office on Monday mornings. We have begun to have a booth at the farmer's market in Marshfield and with efforts to duplicate this in WI Rapids mall, as well as other events like the County Fair, plant sales, etc. We will share what other counties are doing for garden hotlines/ garden clinics. Mark you calendar for **Tuesday, October 3, 2017 2-3:30 pm at UWEX Office.**

# 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.



CREDIT GARRY KNIGHT / FLICKR VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

## Garden Etiquette

We're still in the midst of garden visitations. Whether we're visiting public or private gardens, it's important to keep in mind certain guidelines. Many public gardens publish a set of rules and I've referred to them in preparing this listing.

- Stay on pathways and mowed lawn areas of the garden – do not walk in mulched or planted garden beds.
- Please leave flowers and plants for everyone to enjoy. Do not collect or remove seeds, flowers, fruits and vegetables, labels **without permission**. ***This includes what you might believe to be a weed.***
- Do not litter – dispose of waste in recycle bins when appropriate.
- Wear appropriate clothing including shirts and shoes.
- Before picnicking in a public garden, check to be sure that it's allowed.
- Garden benches are meant for sitting, not laying down so that other visitors may have a seat.
- Only assistance animals are welcome.
- Do not wade or swim in ponds, streams or fountains.
- Supervise children at all times.
- No climbing, running, sports or games. Two-wheeled scooters, skates or skateboards are generally not allowed.
- Weapons and firearms are usually not permitted.
- A public garden reserves the right to ask a visitor to leave for inappropriate or offensive behavior. Visitors will be held liable for any damage to property.

## WIMGA EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Each year, the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association offers Educational Grants to each of our local associations. Wood County has been able to take advantage of several of these grants in the past. Some of the projects that were fully or partially funded by these grants include:

- Purchase of 2 canopies and banners to set up the 'Ask a Master Gardener' booths at local Farmers Markets
- Funding for informational signs, label makers and plant labels for the beautification projects
- Gardening books were donated to six of our local libraries

There are 3 different grant amounts that are available -- \$100, \$250 and \$400. Project Leaders, if you've hesitated to implement an educational initiative in your project due to how it would affect your overall funding, this is an opportunity to "increase the pot." It's very easy to apply for and members of the board will gladly help you with the paperwork – we just need to become aware of your idea. The **deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup>** will be here quickly. If you have an idea or further questions, please contact Ruth Cline or Barb Herreid.

We can submit more than one application and multiple grants are approved each year. The grants are awarded in November so you will have the dollars to spend in 2018.

# Fall Garden Seminar



Date : Saturday, October 28, 2017

Time 8:00 - 12:00

UW-Marshfield Campus, Multi-Media Room #131  
2000 Fifth St. Marshfield

(8 - 8:30) Registration      Presented by:  
Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers

Early Registration Recommended.  
Public invited – Limited Seating.

Deadline October 25      UW-Extension 715-421-8440.  
Refreshments available before and at break      Fee: \$10 Payable at Door

**8: 30 - 10:00**

**Ben Futa**, Executive Director of Allen Centennial Garden at University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Presents: ***"Building a 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.

**10:30-12:00**

**Rob Zimmer**, Author, Gardener and Outdoor Writer in Appleton Wisconsin.

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

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

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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.

## 2017 Master Gardener Volunteer Programs

| Date/Time            | Location  | Topic/Guest Speaker                            |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------|
| September 26<br>7 pm | Wi Rapids | Cranberry Program<br>Matt Lippert              |
| October 24<br>7 pm   | MARS      | Member seed exchange<br>Micro greens by Jeremy |
| November 28<br>7 pm  | MARS      | Italy with Paula Klevene                       |