

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

February 2019

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 2019 Program Information

Reviewing the past , Looking toward the future

by Barb Herreid, Shelby Weister, Janell Wehr and Jason Hausler

March 26, 7:00 p.m. Marshfield Ag Research Station (MARS)

A Busy Start for WCMGV.....

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers will spend the March 26 meeting looking to the past and then the future.

Barb Herreid will be in charge of the annual awards presentation where some MG members will be honored with memorabilia marking volunteer hour milestones. Then, Shelby Weister will share her collection of photos of Master Gardener activity at Farm Technology Days in July, 2018.

We will look to our future with two special guests: Janell Wehr, who recently accepted the position of Wood County Horticulture Program Director and Jason Hausler, Area Extension Director of Clark, Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties. Both will probably have a few thoughts about our future as a local organization and our relationship with the UW.

The March 26th meeting will take place at the Marshfield Ag Research Station (MARS) beginning at 7 PM.

April 23, 2019 meeting TBD.

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President's Message

As February rolled around, we all watched Puxatony Phil come out of his burrow without a shadow. Spring is on the way.

The WCMGV committees have all been busy: budgets have been passed, planning is getting done, plants are getting ordered for the spring sale and the garden walk committee has been busy organizing and getting the owners comfortable and ready for their part. Soon the plants will be bursting forth and the birds will return.

I would encourage all of you that start your own seeds to maybe add just five or ten more seeds to the trays for donation to the plant sale this spring. As Sorche Nic Leodhas would say in her book "There's always room for one more".

Please email to Famia Marx any items needing to be placed on the agenda for the meeting 5 days before the meeting.

Until then, stay busy, stay warm.

Famia

WCMGV Spring Garden Seminar

The Spring Seminar is April 6 at MSTC in Wisconsin Rapids. We have two exciting presenters: Laish Heersma on Landscape Architecture Principles and our own Denise Larson on Garden Photography/Journaling. This year a new agreement with MSTC will change the way we advertise and run the event. MSTC will include our event in their Continuing Education catalog that goes out to the public, increasing our audience, in addition to our own poster distribution. MSTC will take the sign-ups and collect the seminar fees. They will also provide the coffee and hot water so that we do not have to transport water, coffee pots, etc. In exchange, the fee will be \$18, **ten dollars of which will come back to the MGVs**.

The committee still will need help with the following:

7am Set up at MSTC for refreshments and welcome table - 5 people

Take down at 12pm - 4 people

Goodies - deliver between 7:30 and 8am - 20 people

Sign-up sheets will be circulated at the March meeting for the above. If you cannot be at the March meeting, please call Donna Streiff at 715-207-6218 and let her know where you will be able to help. In the case of goodies, if you have an idea of that you will bring, let her know that also.

The poster included in this newsletter is also available at the Extension Office. Our first meeting this spring is not until March 25, which is a little late for poster distribution. If you can copy the poster in the newsletter to distribute in your area, or if you get to the Extension office, there will be copies. Please let the secretary know what you need.



Saturday, April 6
8:30 a.m.
Mid-State Technical College
Wisconsin Rapids Campus • Auditorium

Agenda:

8:00 a.m. — Registration and Networking with complimentary refreshments
8:30 a.m. — Landscape Architecture

Laish Heersma of Arbor Vantage Nursery in Arpin, WI and Mid-State Urban Forestry Technician Instructor.

This in-depth lecture will focus on design principles and will include plenty of photographic examples to demonstrate the principles of unity, rhythm, variety, balance, color concepts, interconnection, emphasis, focal point, and scale.

10:30 a.m. — Garden Photography and Garden Journaling - What do you do with info to be a better gardener?



Denise Larson has been an avid gardener for an entire lifetime. She joined the Wood County Master Gardener program in 2003 and worked for 25 years in local retail as Department Manager of Lawn and Garden. She is a self-taught amateur photographer and taking photos of gardens is second nature to her! Merging her love of photography with a garden journal turned out to be a perfect way to enhance and organize a written catalog of successes in her gardening adventures and what might need a little work... As well as documenting the arrival of the wildlife that may come to visit, photos help you notice things about your garden that you might not have detected with just a quick glance.

Denise's other interests include quilting, hand crafted garden art, other various arts and crafts and teaching art to others.

Cost: \$18
Registration: www.mstc.edu/master-gardeners



mstc.edu
888.575.6782



Mid-State does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its program, activity, or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President - Human Resources, 500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, 54484, 715.422.5325, 2/2019

Welcome New Horticultural Agent

Greetings Wood County Colleagues and Partners,

I am pleased to announce that Janell Wehr has accepted the Wood County Horticulture Program Coordinator position and will begin her appointment on Monday, February 11th. We are excited to welcome Janell to our team, and know that she will hit the ground running to meet the diverse Horticulture needs of Wood County.

Janell comes to Extension having served for 7 years as the greenhouse manager at Jung's Garden Center in Stevens Point. There she managed the day to day operations and provided support to staff in identifying plants, creating educational resources and materials, and with working with customers to ensure a high level of service. She said that her favorite part of the job was sharing horticulture knowledge and solutions. She is impressed and excited by the scope and variety of the Master Gardener projects and is very proud to become a part of the organization. "I look forward to working with the Wood County Master Gardeners and meeting all of you."

Janell lives in the Stevens Point area and holds a Bachelors Degree in Natural Science and Geoscience (with an emphasis in environmental analysis) from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Please extend a warm welcome to Janell.

Jason Hausler

Area Extension Director
Clark, Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties
UW-Madison Division of Extension

email: jason.hausler@ces.uwex.edu
call/text: (715) 533-8006
711 for Wisconsin Relay

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

Portage County Garden Dreams Seminar Re-scheduled



A Saturday with the UW-Extension Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers

March 30, 2019, Check-in opens at 7:45 am ~ Programs 8:45 am. - 3:00 pm

\$30.00 Registration fee includes a hot lunch!

[Download and print the registration form here.](#)

Registration deadline is March 23, 2019

"Bird-friendly Backyards" ~ Alan Haney, Emeritus Professor of Forestry, College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point

"Bee-utiful Design" ~ Katey Pratt, Horticulturist, Event and Rose Gardens at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

"Creating a Garden Sanctuary" ~ Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

February Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Inspect gladiolus corms, dahlia tubers, begonia tubers and other fleshy rooted plants for rot and desiccation.
- Before ordering vegetable seeds, check last year's seed for viability by placing seeds between moist paper towels for several days.
- To keep your houseplants growing evenly, give the containers a half turn every two days.
- Start seed for impatiens, vinca, pansies, geranium and begonias in mid month.
- Continue to inspect stored vegetables.
- Check for over wintering fire blight cankers on susceptible varieties of apples and pears; remove by pruning.
- Spray dormant oil to control scale and other over wintering pests. Spray on any day above 40 degrees F and when forecast temperatures are to remain above freezing for 24 hours. This may be done until buds swell.
- Prune dormant trees and summer flowering shrubs. Don't prune spring flowering shrubs until after they have flowered.
- When forced bulbs have bloomed and tops have dried, store and then plant in garden in fall.
- Prune roses, fruit trees, and bramble fruits.
- Order catalogues from seed companies you've been meaning to try.
- Check your garden tools and make a list of new tools you will need or want.
- Sharpen garden tools.
- Give houseplants a monthly shower with tepid water.
- Check young trees and shrubs for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent rodent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Try growing some perennials from seed.
- Start seeds for leeks and onions.
- Don't use seeds with poor germination rates; seedlings may be more prone to insect and disease problems.

Responding to Horticultural Inquiries

Responding to Horticultural Inquiries

Dates and places have been set for this years all day class "Responding to Horticultural Inquiries."

8-Apr-19 Extension Dunn Co Office, 3001 US Highway 12 E, Suite 102, Menomonie, WI 54751

30-Apr-19 Extension Dane Co Office, 5201 Fen Oak Dr #138, Madison, WI 53718

7-May-19 Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Pl, Green Bay, WI 54303

Watch for more information from state coming out soon.

WCMGV Cookbooks

**COOKBOOKS FOR SALE ANY TIME
FOR \$5.00**

Contact Sue Wilford

(swilford@tds.net or 715-652-6129)
to purchase and pick up.



March Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Plant tuberous rooted begonias indoors early in the month.
- Begin regular fertilization of houseplants.
- March is a good month to make cuttings of many houseplants.
- Order perennial plants and specify that they be delivered when the ground is workable.
- Start seeds of slow-growing annuals. Transfer them as appropriate in April to cold frame.
- Start bulbs of calla. They will bloom from June to August.
- Start seedlings of cabbage, celery, cauliflower, head lettuce, and parsley.
- Keep amaryllis foliage growing by watering and feeding.
- Continue to inspect stored vegetables. Anything showing signs of spoilage should be removed immediately and either used or discarded.
- Don't worry if spring-flowering bulbs are sending up green leaves. The foliage can withstand winter weather.
- March is the leanest month for wildlife, so protect shrubs and plants with wire cages or sprinkle ground with cat hair or blood meal.
- Do not remove mulch from perennials too early. Keep light covering of mulch over spring bulbs.
- Rake off last season's mulches on garden soil so it can dry and be warmed by the sun. Remove any plant residue left from last year.
- If the compost pile froze during winter, turn it now, and add fresh manure to help restart the composting process.
- Finish pruning dormant trees.
- Sharpen lawn mower blades and have mower serviced before spring rush.
- If you fertilize, apply to shade trees, fruit trees and shrubs when buds swell, as well as to evergreens and raspberries.
- Prune summer flowering (after end of June) shrubs.
- Finish pruning grapes. Non-dormant pruning will cause excessive bleeding.
- Finish dormant pruning of fruit trees and berry bushes. Remove diseased or infected branches.



Photo by Bernadette on pixabay.com under CCO Creative Commons

Classified Column

Website/Facebook Co-editor Wanted

We are looking for a volunteer to assist with managing our online presence. We use our website and Facebook pages not only to promote our activities and fundraisers, but also to feature educational articles on timely subjects throughout most of the year. Your responsibilities would include composing articles or editing an article written by someone else and then posting them online. Training is provided. Must have a current account on Facebook. Proficiency in writing and grammar is desired. Time spent researching and writing go toward volunteer hours. Contact Chris Grimes for more information.



Looking for Plant Waterers

If you are looking for a part-time summer job, Walmart is looking for people to water and care for plants at any of their locations. Applications are available at Walmart or on [INDEED](#). Look for Nealmast Sons Greenhouse and a position called TAP Merchandiser.

On-line Reporting for WCMGVs

The New Online Reporting System (ORS) is LIVE!

If you have not done so already, please log into the Online Reporting System. For those of you who have, hold tight, phase 2 is coming soon!

Our online reporting system is where you can update your personal information and check off on all the required “paperwork”. Soon we’ll have you log on again to confirm your total hours, and (eventually) you’ll record your hours on the site (but we have to get all the projects loaded first, so it may take a while until that part is ready). This will replace the paper forms we have traditionally used.

If you haven’t already, go to https://volunteers.wimastergardener.org/vms/mg_access_form/ to log onto the system and complete all the required agreements. It shouldn’t take more than a few minutes to do this (depending on how long it takes you to read all the boring legalese). We’ll send more instructions when new parts of the ORS are phased in.

Just start typing in your first or last name (whichever is most distinctive will get you there fastest) and it will automatically filter through all the names to bring up those with a partial or full match. **If you type in your full first and last name you will NOT see your name, so use just one or the other!** Once you see your name in the drop down menu, click on it. Then add your zip code to access your profile. (If this doesn’t work, we may have an incorrect address on file for you or there may be another glitch. If you can’t get in, click on “Get Help”.)

Once you get to your record you can see what information we have on file for you. From now on YOU get to update this yourself rather than contacting us to do it. In order to save any changes you MUST create a username and password.

Then there are several agreements that you have to read and agree to. We’ve had you do the Volunteer Expectations Agreement on paper before - now it’s just a checkbox (but the same text as the paper form). There are also some new things to agree to that are required by UW-Extension that anyone who has been a 4-H volunteer should be familiar with: sections on Assumption of Risk, and Consent for Emergency Treatment. This must be accepted to be a certified volunteer. There is also a Photo Release which you do not have to accept, but you have to provide an answer. Once those are all checked, click on the green box that says “Save Profile” (on the right side at both top and bottom) and you’re done for now! Remember, you CANNOT enter hours at this point, so continue to keep them on paper until you hear otherwise! In the near future we’ll ask you to sign in again and confirm your total number of hours for 2018, and we’ll notify you when hours reporting is finally available. And if you have any MGv friends who don’t have easy access to a computer, you can help them do this on your device(s). Just sign in as them, and help them set up their own username and password, and do all the other stuff, too.



Spring Plant Sale



Planning for the spring plant sale got off to a good start on January 26 with a productive meeting of 8 people attending. The sale will be Friday May 17th and Saturday May 18th at the Wisconsin Rapids Zoo to coincide with the Port Edwards rummage sale.

An email was sent to the rest of the team as well as chair-heads of the projects asking for ideas on which plants to buy. We'll have an update in the March newsletter and we will be looking for volunteers to help set up on Thursday beforehand and sell on Friday and Saturday early. This will be a team effort for the whole county just as the fall plant sale is, so we are looking forward to your help.

Thanks,
Famia

Garden Walk News

Planning for this year's Garden Walk is underway. Six beautiful gardens will be featured, all in the Wisconsin Rapids area.

- Once again, please consider the **Art in the Garden Boutique** as you go through your closets, bookshelves, garage, and shed in the coming weeks. We are looking for clean, gently used garden related items, books, and magazines to sell at the booth. You may give your items to Denise Larson or Julie Carlsen any time between now and July 10th.
- We are also looking for **NEW** garden related items or art to use for a **Silent Auction**. Contact Denise Larson if you or someone you know may have an auction item to donate to our fundraiser.
- Denise will also be scheduling **Craft Nights** to make sale items. These usually start in May. Watch for more information in future newsletters.



Members Only Access on WCMG Website

We now have a portion of our website that is accessible only to members. The "Documents and Forms" tab has been changed to "Members Only". Here you will find all of our documents, forms, bylaws, project expense voucher, timesheets, and other resources, as well as the membership list and the project and committee rosters for your convenience. You will be prompted to provide a password to gain access to this information. An email was sent last week with the password, but if you did not see it, contact [Chris Grimes](#) for the current password. Be sure to clear your browser after access if you are accustomed to using a public or workplace computer.



2018 WCMGV Board of Directors

President—Famia Marx
mapallc@tds.net
715-652-2405

Vice President—Bob Cline
stonegate@tds.net
715-569-4202

Secretary—Sue Wilford
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715-652-6129

Treasurer—Barb Herreid
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Director—Bob Cline
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Director—Donna Streiff
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715-207-6218

Communications Rep.—Chris Grimes
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Immediate Past President and WIMGA Rep—
Ruth Cline
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715-569-4202

Please note new e-mail address for
newsletter submissions:

WCMGVs@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor
Peg Klinkhammer

WCMGVs@gmail.com
715-569-4271

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

Public Relations Chair
Karen Thlacac

kthlacac@wctc.net
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](http://wimastergardener.org)

Wood County Extension Web-
site: <http://wood.uwex.edu>

WCMGV Website: [http://
www.wood-county-master-
gardeners.org](http://www.wood-county-master-gardeners.org)

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WCMGV Meetings and Notices

February 25, 2019: Project Leader Meeting, 1-3 p.m., MARS

March 9, 2019: Spring Plant Sale Meeting, 2:00 p.m., McMillan Library—McCourt Room

March 11, 2019: Project Leader Meeting, 6-8 p.m., McMillan Library—McCourt Room
(Agendas will be the same, so you can attend either one. For those who are unable to attend, notes will be taken and distributed.)

March 11, 2019: Reception for Garden Walk Owners, 5-8:30 p.m., Alexander House

April 27, 2019: Garden Walk Meeting, 9:00 a.m., McMillan Library—McCourt Room (pending conf.)

May 17 & 18, 2019: Spring Plant Sale, Helen's Zoo House, Wis. Rapids

July 13, 2019: Garden Walk: pre-walk on Friday, July 12 in evening

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.