

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

April 2020

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 2020 Program Information



COVID-19 Updates for the Master Gardener Program

Questions continue to roll in about how COVID-19 and the Safer At Home order impacts the Master Gardener Program.

A few days ago I sent a message which has since been updated for clarity. You can read that

message and view future updates at: <https://wimastergardener.org/>

My priority is for the safety and health of you, staff, and our clientele. I strongly encourage you to focus on things that can be done from the safety of your home. I am receiving inquiries about activities to do outside the home. Regardless if you think these meet the qualifications of essential vs non-essential, social distancing, and what not, I will continue to not approve anything at this time.

The situation will be reassessed when the Safer at Home order is lifted.

This is an unusual time. For your family, friends, and neighbors, please be safe.

Mike Maddox

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President's Notebook

Hello members, first and foremost I hope you are staying home, staying safe and taking care of yourself. The most important subjects right now are all of you, your family, friends and neighbors. Our WCMGVA garden projects will all survive and be there waiting for us to return when the COVID-19 situation is under control and it is safe to return to our daily activities. We will receive information from UW Extension Madison - Mike Maddox when/if we can resume our Wood County Master Gardener Organization activities, which includes all in-ground garden projects, face to face educational programs, meetings, coffee gatherings, committees, etc. The reason for the halt is to protect ourselves, the communities which we serve, and liability for the organization. If any member has questions about the above information, please feel free to contact me. I am here to serve the membership in any way I can.

Our 24 Volunteer Hour requirement has been waived for 2020. Our 10 hour Continuing Education must still be met to re-certify for 2021. To help provide ways of earning those hours, several MGV have created education articles for the monthly newsletters. Each article you review is worth ½ hour towards the required CE hours. Each month, we will try and have ideas for earning your required 10 hours CE. Do not wait to next fall to start earning these hours!

The question comes up many times--what can I do to keep myself busy until I am allowed to return to my MGV in-ground project garden. I don't know everyone's hobbies or interests so I will share what I have been doing with my extra time:

- Transplanted 50 young trees around our property
- Started spring clean-up early and hauled mulch
- Sorted 20 boxes of stuff stored for years
- Tried new recipes, even homemade bread from scratch
- Played with my horse
- Read numerous books that I had collected but never read
- Entered art work in On-Line Cultural Art Show
- Walked and biked more so that I lost 10 pounds!
- Day trips on Wisconsin Back Roads
- Re-organized my horse barn and studio
- Planned for container gardens for fresh greens and tomatoes all summer
- Planned for my new puppy to arrive in May
- Installed fence on property
- Cut my own hair
- Worked on my books that I am creating
- MGV paperwork, emails, questions
- Shopped for groceries once— no I did not buy toilet paper!!!



AnemoneProjectors: This file is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic](#) license.

Please email to [Ruth Cline](#) any items needing to be placed on the agenda for the meeting 5 days before the meeting.

Garden Walk 2020 (pending)

Even though we won't probably know for certain until sometime in May if we can hold the Garden Walk, planning has begun for our 21st Annual Garden Walk to be held Saturday, July 11, 2020. We are looking ahead to a bright, warm, summer day in which five gardens in the Rapids and Port Edwards will be featured. Garden Boutique and Refreshment Table will return. Four artists featuring original paintings and textiles will cap off a promise of a lovely day!

Our general membership, as well as our committee membership has dropped, so we are hoping everyone can contribute in some way. How can you help??

- Remember the Garden Boutique for garden related books, magazines, tools, equipment, pots, baskets, art, etc. while spring cleaning this year. Please make sure your items are CLEAN and in good repair.
- Watch for more information about Craft Nights and help make some really nice garden art to be sold at the boutique.
- As you travel about town, notice places that accept promotional flyers so you can return and put up one of our posters when they are available. Your bank, exercise venue, library, beauty shop, church, favorite greenhouse, golf course, and others often have a wall or bulletin board for these types of things.

Think about whom you know in your family, social circle, or work that might purchase or appreciate a gift of a ticket for Mother's Day, Father's Day, May Day, Hostess gift, Thank you gift, or any day.

Lastly, Our Garden Owners/Artists Meet and Greet will be held Monday March 9. Can anyone in the Rapids/Port area provide a snack for the reception we hold in their honor? It can be anything, sweet or savory, that doesn't require a fork to eat. Contact Chris Grimes, if you are able.

Saturday,
July 11, 2020
21st Annual
Garden Walk



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Garden Walk 2019
photos

Garden Dreams Refunds on their way

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for your patience regarding your refund for Garden Dreams. The transition to working from home has been a bit more involved than I originally anticipated. Technical difficulties and my grad student daughter coming home have added to the delay.

Garden Dreams will not be rescheduled this year, but we look forward to seeing you at the event next spring.

Also, just a note, the Portage County Master Gardener's Plant Sale originally scheduled for mid-May has also been cancelled.

However, the Portage County Extension office staff are working remotely, so are available to answer your Horticulture questions. You can email me at this address or leave a message at our office.

Stay Well,

Denise Rocha
Extension Portage County Support Staff
<https://portage.extension.wisc.edu/>

Here's an idea...

Have you come across something interesting related to horticulture and you were prompted to share it with your mom or your sister or your best gardening friend? How about sharing that with your WCMG colleagues by submitting the information for our monthly newsletter?

We're looking for anything of interest...

- a great garden book you just read/bought
- a pertinent seminar
- a fabulous greenhouse you found
- an interesting gardening story
- a garden tip that really worked well
- a great recipe

We'd love to hear your experience. Feel free to send a picture featuring your find. All you have to do is send it to Peg Klinkhammer, our newsletter editor (wcmgvs@gmail.com). The deadline is the 10th of every month.

Now another place to share your messages

The WIMGA newsletter is also looking for submission of articles that feature some educational subject, MG tips, fun garden ideas, and especially, news about what is going on in our MG association. So keep that in mind as you plan and implement your project. What aspect of your project can you and your team highlight with an article and pictures? Let's show Wisconsin what Wood County is up to!

Send your submission to the editors of WIMGA newsletter Hali Dressecker at halirenee@yahoo.com or Nancy at westcoasternancy@gmail.com

Follow this link to the latest WIMGA newsletter to see what they are doing.
<https://www.wimga.org/>

May Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Set Easter lilies in garden.
- Plant cool-weather crops: lettuce, spinach, chard, parsnip, onion sets, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, mustard, turnips, radishes, peas, parsley, and potatoes in early May. Soil temperatures should be at least 45 degrees.
- Plant snap beans, pole beans, sweet corn, and onion plants in mid-May. Sweet corn planted earlier in the season has fewer pest problems.
- Inspect for Iris borer larva on iris leaves. Crush larva.
- For bigger Peony flowers, de-bud several branches. Stake before buds open.
- Set out pansy plants when ground is workable.
- Dig and divide mid summer and fall blooming perennials before tip growth gets too tall.
- Plant tuberous begonias.
- Watch birch leaves for birch leaf miner infestation. Use sticky traps to monitor emergence of adults to help time spraying with summer oil, Neem extract, or rotenone. Sprays are only effective on adults or larvae before they tunnel into leaves. Some soil applied systemic chemicals may be effective in controlling larvae after they have tunneled into leaves.
- Plant tomato seedlings by pinching off lower leaves and placing on its side in a shallow furrow 2.5 inches below the soil surface. Soil closer to the surface is warmer and will speed tomato growth.
- Plant and transplant new evergreens before new growth appears.
- Plant strawberries, bush fruits, and grapes in mid month. Pinch blossoms from newly planted strawberries to develop strong plants for next year.
- Remove faded flowers from spring-flowering bulbs. Cut off stalks but allow leaves to die down naturally. Fertilize after blooming with 5 10-20.
- Plant stored geraniums in well-drained soil after last frost and keep moist. New growth should begin in one week.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowers have faded. Apply fertilizer.
- Toward end of the month, harden off seedlings of vegetable transplants and annuals grown indoors. Bring in at night or place in cold frames before planting in garden.



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#QuarantineCooking by WCMGVs

Here's an idea from a member:

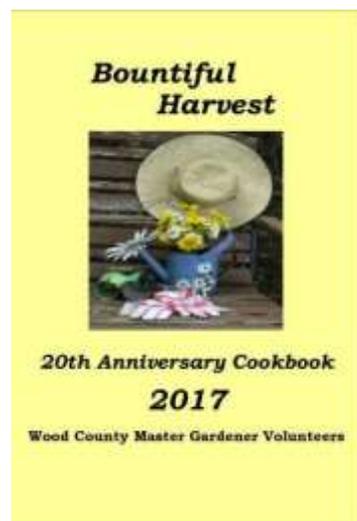
So we're all stuck at home (I think). I got to thinking about missing all our meetings and missing all our camaraderie. Then POP goes my brain.

How about a little cook off to keep us all connected?

What we could do is a challenge for each of us that bought our cookbook. Let's get that book out! Make something! Then on our email or private Facebook page, post a picture and how it turned out.

Just a thought :)

NOTE: If you are not a member of our private Facebook page, send Chris an email message and she will invite you.



The first Submission



Spicy Sausage Kale Bean Soup

page 182, submitted by former member Apollonia Virsnieks

This is delicious. Italian sausage is an individual preference. All I had was mild and it was great for me. For a "bunch" of kale, I would say 6-8 cups chopped kale, for "2 sweet potatoes" I would say about 4 cups cubed, but you can increase if you like. I used half and half and it was just fine, except I never boil cream, so put it in with the kale. It did not require extra salt for me.

This I paired with a bottle of Montepulciano, a medium bodied Italian wine, which is supposed to go with rich and fatty foods like brisket, pizza, Italian sausage. I liked it.

A couple weeks ago, I tried another similar recipe that is supposed to duplicate an Olive Garden soup. It uses russet potatoes instead of sweet potatoes and I really liked it. Also I used half and half instead of the cream. Loved it

Zuppa Toscana

- 1 lb. ground sweet Italian sausage, can use mild spicy too
- 1 lg sweet onion, diced
- 3 garlic clove, minced
- 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 lg baking potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 14 oz. cans chicken broth
- 20 oz. water
- 2 cups kale, chopped
- 12 ounces half and half (or heavy cream)

Brown sausage and drain. sauté onion at medium heat several minutes until soft; add garlic and red pepper flakes, stirring for 1 minute or so. Add potatoes, broth and water. Cook over medium heat until the potatoes are cooked though. Add half and half and kale and cook for additional 10-15 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.

There are lots of yummy sounding prospects in this book, but Lord knows I shouldn't eat a whole cappuccino cheese cake all by myself! So this is what I tried:

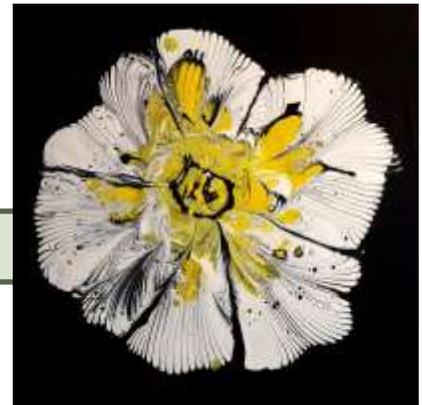
Cranberry Coffee Cake, page 83 submitted by Ruth Cline

Nice little cake if you need just a small one. Easy to make. I pulsed frozen cranberries in my processor and it worked great.



Sze-chwan Chicken, page 144, submitted by Penn Wilkes

Super fast and easy and yummy. You control the heat. I suck at making rice, so don't judge.



Gardenia by Denise Larson

Cultural Center Online Art Exhibit

Since there are many ways to enjoy gardening, our members may enjoy viewing the Central Wisconsin Cultural Center online Social-Distancing Air Exhibit. Viewers will notice some familiar names as they view the art work, as at least two MGV and one retired MGV have art work

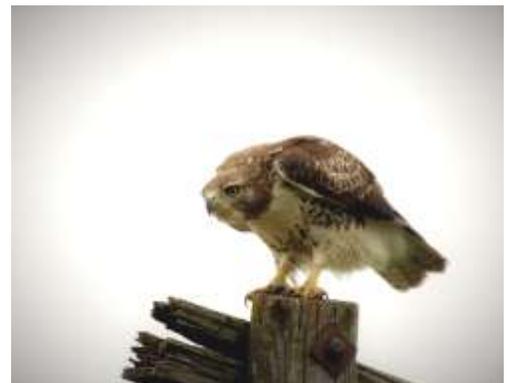
in this exhibit. Perhaps each member would like to give art work a whirl by using their own garden or a dream garden to create garden related art work!

When we meet again, we will have a show and tell event. Notice the ages of the artists in the exhibit. Thanks! Ruth

ONLINE ART EXHIBIT: <https://culturalcenterarts.com/social-distancing-online-exhibit.html>



Secret Gardener by Ruth Cline



Is that Dinner? by Bob Cline

MY FAVORITE GARDEN TOOL

TOM PTAK MASTER GARDENER

HAURI HAURI KNIFE



I have used this indispensable tool for 3 years and cannot perform at least 5 garden chores without it. Size and features; length 12," Width 1 3/4 ", stainless steel blade with a depth of 7". Some are available with honing stone or rat tail file; all come with a nylon or leather scabbard. The quality of this handy trowel is excellent and it always has a review rating of 5 out of 5 stars. Please notice on the bottom photo that the thick blade runs through the entire hard wood handle, preventing flexing of the small shovel while digging a hole.

Two working edges are invaluable. The sharp serrated edge is handy ripping through roots and cutting string. The other edge slices through ground and small stones. The depth gauge on the blade makes it easy while planting bulbs. Three (not 2) strong rivets hold the blade in place.



What chores do I accomplish using the garden tool? Primary uses include transplanting, weeding, digging clay or hard packed soil with certain depth and distances, splitting perennials, cutting roots, tearing apart plastic pots prior to planting, dividing root bound potted plants, and prying up rocks. The honing stone or file is included with purchase and sharpens the polished stainless steel blade well. Some gardeners have said that the tool can be used as a defensive weapon while gardening.

Please do not make the mistake again of buying a wood, or plastic handle trowel. Spend \$25.00 and have a great tool which may last a lifetime. Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Composting Made Easy

Decomposition is the process of organic material breaking down over a period of time in the presence of Oxygen. Composting is speeding up decomposition by managing the process. By making compost, we Reduce the amount of yard waste going to landfills, Recycle organics into usable material, and Reuse that material in the garden.

Microbes and Bacteria are the main workhorses in the compost pile followed by Macro organisms like fungus, nematodes, mites, sow bugs and earthworms. If we keep the workhorses happy, they live and multiply in the pile and produce compost in the process. Key ingredients they need are food, water and oxygen.

Food needed in equal weights are:

<u>Nitrogen (Greens)</u>	<u>Carbon (Browns)</u>
Grass clippings	chopped leaves
Weeds - no seeds	small brush/twigs
Coffee grounds	saw dust
Kitchen scraps	hay
	Shredded Paper/cardboard



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Reminder - equal weight does not mean equal volume - for each bucket of kitchen scraps, you will probably need 10 or more buckets of sawdust or chopped dried leaves. Small amounts of wood ash can be added for potash, and egg shells can be added for calcium. Enough water is needed to make your pile feel like a wrung-out sponge. Oxygen is needed to keep the microbes happy. Turning the pile adds oxygen.

To make a pile, a bin is not necessary, but it is useful to keep the pile more organized, attractive, and uses the space better. Piles need to be at least 3' x 3', be near a water source, in a convenient place, and at least 2' from a building to allow air flow and turning room. Hot, fast compost piles need to be built all at once. Start with a single layer of coarse organics on the bottom, layer green, then brown in equal weights, then water. Repeat the green and brown layers until the pile is the size needed, ending with the brown layer. Turn pile with a pitchfork every 5-7 days and water every time you turn it. Compost will be ready to use in 2-12 months. Slow, no turn piles take longer but are less work. Start with the single layer of coarse material. Add yard waste as you get it. Keep it damp. Turn if you wish or not at all. After a year or two, rake off unfinished materials to get to the center and bottom of the pile to find finished compost and start a new pile with the materials you raked off. If your pile starts to smell, it needs oxygen. If it gets slimy, you need to add more browns. If it doesn't seem to be working fast enough, add more greens. Remember to chop up materials. Smaller pieces compost faster. Also remember to keep the pile damp like a wrung-out sponge.

Materials to NOT put in a compost pile: meat, bones, fats, oils, dairy products, pen or human waste, charcoal ash, treated wood ash, diseased plants, and invasive plants.

Composting materials normally thrown in a landfill is a satisfying experience. Knowing that you have clean, organic compost is a worth the small amount of work that you put into the process. Make this year your year to try it!

Submitted by [Jeanne Osgood](#)



Resurrecting Roses in Spring

Tom Ptak Master Gardener/ Consulting Rosarian

Phenological Guide



With all types of winter protection (ground burying, burlap covering, or cone covering) there is a time to start removing the coverings that you worked so hard in the fall.

Remembering hilling up with dirt and applying the cocoon until spring took some time. It's now time to think about how, and when the reverse hardening-off will occur for hybrid, tea and small shrub roses for these remountant beauties.



The look at a hand written reminder date will not help you decide the how and the when to remove winter first layer cocoons, however a Spring Flowering shrub will be you're notice to start the gradual removal of winter protection. The full bloom florets of the forsythia flowering shrub will be your reminder to start the process of unfastening the barriers or digging up the buried plants hoping to see some green canes. You will also notice the weather deep freezes usually below 10 degrees are gone. If there is no appearance of the green cambial color on the rose cane,



do not worry, you remembered to hill up the thorny plants with dirt or mulched leaves last fall. So now we have to wait for steady average temperatures to reach above 25 degrees over night before removing the next layer of protection, the hilled up earth and mulch which will show you those green canes. Do not be surprised to see some dead canes in the hilled up plant. They may be pruned after final removal of protection. Horticulture spraying can now occur while waiting for the ground to warm up and photosynthesis to begin.



Touch of Class hybrid tea rose zone 5 grown in weather zone 4 using above guide. If at first you do not succeed Hybrid teas, many varieties of 2-4 foot roses are available with the fragrance of a tea rose are available.



Recommended zone 4, 3-4 foot starter fragrant shrub roses

Music Box, yellow pink blend, bare root or potted & O SO Easy Paprika

Availability: Jung's -Edmonds Catalog on line order now for bare root or visit cold storage Stevens Point. French Town Garden Center potted, and most central WI. nursery centers. Shop early for best selection.



Quote Liberty Hyde Bailey "Is there any progress in horticulture? If not it is dead & uninspiring. We cannot live in the past good as it is, we must draw our inspiration from the future".

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

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

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

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

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

Committees, teams, project leaders, members, BODs, are encouraged to send meeting notices for the column below.

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.

2020 WCMGV Meetings and Notices

All meetings canceled until further notice.