

# UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

August 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

I know everyone is getting antsy to be outside on volunteer projects. DATCP has recently released criteria for green industry businesses to be open for their essential functioning, DO NOT interpret this as a green light for volunteering at your out of home projects.

The executive order states:

**2. Non-essential business and operations must cease.** All for-profit and non-profit businesses with a facility in Wisconsin, except Essential Businesses and Operations as defined below, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within Wisconsin...

We must remember we are an outreach service of the UW-Madison campus. All research, education, and outreach is cancelled, postponed, or moved online. Furthermore, a county health department message was recently shared with me regarding MG activities:

I do not recommend this [outside volunteer activities]. The Safer at Home order recommends staying at home especially among the population over age 60. Travel only for essential purposes. The Garden beds are not essential. We are expected to peak in the month of May with the disease. It is not a good time to be doing these activities and does not send the message of staying at home. I know they are excited to work on the gardens but it is very important in order to protect our community.



Mike Maddox

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## President's Notebook

Hello Members. First I hope you are staying safe and enjoying time at home. I realize you want to get out and return to what we consider normal activities. Members, this is not going to happen in 2020, or most likely not in 2021. Yes, change is very hard, but we must do our best to follow guidance received from UW Madison's representative, Mike Maddock, since WCMGV operate under UW's requirements.

Most recently we received a first step opportunity to return to our public gardens for a stated time and with approval from UW Extension Staff member, Janell. She is working with each MGVA who would like to return to public garden work. All MGVA's should have received emails from Mike, Janell and myself in regards to how to follow the UWEX requirements for doing some simple work such as weeding, etc. Keep in mind, if you wish to do any garden work at your public gardens you must contact Janell as she has forms, etc. to help you get approval for a few hours of work at your garden site by following guidelines provided by UW Madison. This process of allowing limited garden work is a trial procedure to observe how this method will work for MGVA. Please follow guidelines as directed by UW Madison.

This first step is not the same as the Halt under which we are under currently working. We have not received an o.k. to meet face to face, hold meetings, educational programs, etc. If you have questions please feel free to contact me or Janell. We will do our best to answer your questions. I will continue to provide any updated information from Madison as I receive it. Working together we will go forward. The BOD looks forward to your input on any subject as it relates to WCMGVA and the Master Gardener Program. Currently other WCMGVA events, meetings, educational face-to-face events have been cancelled and/or postponed until further notice.

Thank you all very much for following the requirements/guidelines as received from UW Madison, Mike Maddock.

*Ruth Cline*

## Suggested Topics for Library Talks in Marshfield

If you would like to give a talk/demo for an hour or so on any of these topics on the third Monday of the month at 6pm in Marshfield, please contact Donna Streiff at 715-207-6218 or at [streiffonclay@tds.net](mailto:streiffonclay@tds.net). This is a good opportunity to practice educating a small group of people in a friendly atmosphere. The library staff is very helpful and I can work with you also.

Lasagna gardening

Straw bale gardening

Butterfly gardening

Growing fruit trees

Maintaining perennial gardens

Tree health

Soil quality

Native plants

Shade gardening

Growing flowers for drying

Rain gardens

## Toward Harmony with Nature Conference

Next year's Toward Harmony With Nature Conference, scheduled for January 30, 2021, has been cancelled due to COVID-19. This was a difficult decision but one which the Conference Planning Committee and the Chapter Board agreed would be in the Chapter's best interest. Many things factored into this decision. Key among them is not knowing what guidelines the Oshkosh Convention Center will need to follow at that time, which could affect the number of people allowed to attend, as well as, the number of presenters and exhibitors. Thus, it was decided we could not put in all the time and money needed to plan for the event.

However, we are planning to hold the **25th Anniversary Conference on January 29, 2022** at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

So, mark your calendars and we'll see you then for a great event!

Kristin Kauth

*Chair, Conference Planning Committee*



### And from Ruth...

Bob and I normally attend the Conference listed above and it is excellent! I am sharing the information on the conference with all of you to give you an example of how various organizations are planning for the future. This is not the only organization starting to plan a year or even two ahead. WCMGV may be doing the same thing in the future! The reason I mention planning ahead is in this newsletter, Karleen Remington has composed an excellent article regarding WCMGV.

It is not too early to exercise our brains and come up with ideas for the future. The more input the WCMGVA Board of Directors receive, the more ideas they will have to work with. We don't know what is ahead for our organization but we can generate our thoughts and ideas about things that went right, things that didn't work, and on what we really enjoy working on vs. what our bodies tell us we can actually accomplish with success. Our mission states we are to support the Horticulturist in the area of Horticulture Education for the public.

Since our Horticulturist position in Wood County is part-time, the Master Gardener Volunteers are needed to step in and spend more of their volunteer hours assisting the Horticulturist. How can we find the time to fulfill our mission statement? Your input is valuable.....this is your opportunity to express your thoughts!

Thank You, Karleen, for your time to provide your article on page 8.

## Zooming at Marshfield Library

The Marshfield Library has been hosting Zoom educational programs. If any MGs would like to make a presentation, especially in the Garden Guru slot on the third Monday of the month at 6pm, please contact me and I will get you in touch with Bethany Pierson. If you have the presentation on your computer and/or you have camera on your computer and Internet access, you can give it. I did a PowerPoint and have attended other programs where the presenter just talked to the audience. If you have a website or document up on your computer, you can "Share" it with the audience (pictures, articles, etc.). It is very user friendly. You stay at home and safe, and so does your audience. I would be willing to talk to you and practice with you beforehand. She will also post handouts for the audience on their Google Docs page if you email them to her ahead of time. Staying at home does not mean we cannot educate others! Your local libraries might be able to do a similar thing. Check it out if you are looking for things to do while at home and unable to physically garden or host educational events at our sites.



Donna Streiff

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:halirenee@yahoo.com) or Nancy at [westcoasternancy@gmail.com](mailto:westcoasternancy@gmail.com)

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

## September Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Allowing September rose blooms to stay on plants aids in winter protection. Watch for black spot on roses and remove infected leaves.
- Lift gladiolus corms when leaves begin to brown. Dry in sun a few days.
- Divide most perennials except asters and mums, which haven't bloomed.
- Divide and replant peony roots. Avoid planting too deeply.
- Bring coleus, geranium, caladium and begonias indoors.
- Place amaryllis in cool basement for a 3-month rest period.
- To set buds, Christmas cacti require a rest period and cool nights (55 degrees.)
- Sow snapdragons, cornflowers and other hardy annuals a few weeks before the first frost date. Mark where planted to avoid damaging seedlings in spring.
- Carefully inspect spring flowering bulbs before planting. Discard soft bulbs.
- Remove newly set tomatoes, blossoms and new growth five weeks before expected frost because they won't have time to mature.
- Sow annual ryegrass or oats for winter cover and green manure in beds that won't be planted until late in spring. Keep watered.
- Remove all weeds from garden before they go to seed.
- Pinch out the growing points at the top of Brussels sprout stems so bottom sprouts will reach maturity.
- Watch for early frosts. Cover the garden when frost is predicted to obtain up to another month of growth. Water plants well for greater frost protection and maximum growth.
- Cut back perennials after frost.
- Dig and pot parsley, chives and tender herbs for transfer indoors to sunny window.
- For better keeping, harvest carrots, beets and turnips before first frost kills foliage.
- Gather squash, pumpkins and gourds when ripe and before frost damage. Leave 2-inch stem on vegetable for better storage.
- Clear garden beds immediately after harvest. Destroy any diseased plants by burning, composting in a hot pile or sealing in container for disposal.
- Early September is the latest time to plant spring-flowering shrubs.
- Aerate lawn when temperature is 60-70 degrees.
- Stop planting evergreens by mid-September.
- Harvest pears when light green. Separate from branch with slight twisting motion.
- Harvest grapes. Fertilize with one-cup bone meal per plant.
- Harvest apples. Rake leaves and fallen fruit from apple trees to control disease and inspect problems next year. Be careful not to injure long-lived fruiting spurs when harvesting.
- Cut out spent raspberry and blackberry canes after fruiting.



Winter rye (*Secale cereale*) planted as a cover crop.  
CURTIS SWARTZENTRUBER FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/  
SKILLS0/7248620938 / CREATIVE COMMONS

## WCMGV Life Support

The year of COVID-19 with its accompanying impacts on our organization suggests that there may be many aspects of life in the Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers that may need some evaluation and re-thinking.

One of those aspects may be our fund-raising activities. All of our events this past year required face-to-face contact and thus were impossible for follow through: plant sales, garden walk, etc. Additionally, the Marshfield plant sale was in the process of rethinking itself since the Board of Directors made the decision to end digging plants from our gardens or other gardens because of the risk of spreading jumping worms.

At this point, we have no way of knowing what our status will be in 2021 as far as being able to “open up” to work on projects, education activities, fund raising and our own meetings. We also need to recognize that our public garden projects and fund-raising events have been feeling the effects of our WCMGV declining membership. Without sufficient hands, none of these can take place.

So, with respect to fundraising, the BOD will be very interested in any and all ideas about:

1. How we can continue current face to face fundraising activities with less hands on deck (when we are given the green light)
2. How current fundraisers can be modified to accommodate our membership status and still raise sufficient funds to cover our expenses
3. New fundraising ideas that fit within our mission as Master Gardeners
4. Ideas for possible virtual fundraising

The notion of virtual fundraising would be a whole new experience for us but I have noticed more and more fundraisers have gone that direction because of the coronavirus. And a certain segment of the population is more comfortable with that method of giving.

Please share any of your ideas with Board of Director members—even if they are not fully fledged in your mind. A softly glowing light bulb can become nice and bright with the help of other minds. Your small idea may become something much bigger and brighter as it is processed through additional MG minds. I look forward to some bright ideas!



Karleen Remington (WCMGV VP)

Looking forward to some bright ideas.

## Continuing Education Ideas for Master Gardeners 2020

During social distancing, you are required to complete 10 hours of continuing education to maintain certification. This is a list of general resources and will be updated as we learn of more. As we learn of specific online seminars or classes, we will send that information to you by email.

\*Listen to Larry Meiller's *Garden Talk*. This program is presented every Friday at 11 a.m. and rebroadcast on Saturday at 6 a.m. on WPR's [Ideas Network](#) stations.

\*Listen to Wis Public Radio [Ideas Network](#) environmental program with UW- Extension

\*Complete *Plants Plus* Seminar on WMG website

<https://wimastergardener.org/plants-plus>

Go here to find Extension videos on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WImastergardener/featured>

Go here to find a calendar of learning opportunities around the state. Not sure if they all will be cancelled or offered on Zoom. You will have to check to see.

Some are already on Zoom. <https://wimastergardener.org/events/>

\*Read magazines specific to northern Midwest gardening, such as *Wisconsin Gardening*, *Northern Gardener* (but not general gardening, such as *Better Homes & Gardens*) Qualifies for 30 minutes education time.

\*Read horticulture articles on the Wisconsin Master Gardener website

<https://wimastergardener.org/articles/>

You can earn .25 CE credits for many articles on a lot of different subjects, but there are also ones for which you can earn 1-3 hours of credit by reviewing the article/ videos and taking the quiz. Articles that **cannot** be used for CE include articles about botanic gardens and All-America Selections winners.

\*Read horticulturally related articles on the *WisContext* website

<https://www.wiscontext.org/>

\*Read horticulturally related articles on WPT *University Place* website

<https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/university-place/>

\*Be sure to check *The Volunteer Vibe*, the newsletter written by our director, Mike Maddox and delivered to your inbox every month. It often has continuing education ideas and information.

**When social distancing become more relaxed, check on the availability of these types of programs:**

\*Workshop at a nursery/garden center that doesn't promote a commercial product

\*A *guided* (not self guided) tour of a something like a botanical garden (Monk Gardens, Olbrich, etc).

\*Gardening DVDs/videos checked out from Wood County Extension Office

# 2020 WCMGV Board of Directors

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

**Public Relations Chair  
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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>

**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.**

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## 2020 WCMGV Meetings and Notices

**Previously Scheduled Meetings and Programs have been postponed or cancelled! You will be notified when a meeting and /or program is rescheduled. Thank You for your patience!**