

# UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

May 2021

## WCMGV Program Information for 2021

By the time you read this (and if you attended our zoom meetings) you will have seen two of our own MG'ers presenting very interesting programs that help you toward your 10 hours of continuing education.

Barb Herreid took us on an overseas trip to the bulb producing area of Holland and shared a video and photos of the various steps in planting and raising the tulip, daffodil and other bulb types that we buy for fall planting. Then she guided us on a garden tour that was devoted exclusively to spring bulbs. What a treat!

Donna Streiff, Marshfield's Garden Guru, gave us background information on her experiences doing monthly seminars through the Marshfield Public Library. It was particularly interesting to hear how the library helped her continue the monthly events through zoom. Then she shared with us a program that she developed for our April 2020, MG seminar that she was never able to present because of the covid shutdown.

Programs for the next two months evolved from member suggestions for topics. In May, Jackie Carattini, Extension Educator, will answer our questions about freezing fruits and vegetables as opposed to canning them. She will be just in time to get us thinking about what we want to do with fresh strawberries and other fruits and vegetables that arrive in the farmers' markets in early summer.

Rachael Whitehair, Wood County Natural Resource Educator, will tell us about her work as a member of our Wood County Extension Team at our June meeting. She might have some suggestions about how our organization can coordinate with the work that she does.

Sue Wilford will host our July meeting at her home. We will see her gardens and hear about the challenges and successes she has had working with her particular gardening environment. Sue has extended an invitation to visit for two years and we finally will be able to accept that invitation in July.

August will find us at the South Wood County Historical Museum touring the gardens that have evolved through time and changing conditions. We will especially focus on a memorial to the late Nancy Alger that is being coordinated by the SWCHM team leaders. Nancy's family listed WCMGV as a recipient of memorial monies in her honor. Since she worked on museum projects, the Board of Directors deemed it appropriate to establish a memorial at that location. **Our August meeting occurs during Central Wisconsin Fair week. We are unsure if we will need to change the meeting date.** We'll let you know.

No programs have been planned beyond August. It was decided that we would evaluate the participation in zoom meetings, research meeting spaces available and consider the mask and social distancing parameters from Madison before planning additional programs. Some are better in an in-person setting and others are not. As we make plans for the later part of 2021, we will look at some of your requests and also look back at other programs that were originally scheduled for 2020. Stay tuned.

- ◆ WCMGV March and April Minutes
- ◆ Upcoming Educational Opportunities
- ◆ Projects Updates
- ◆ Tomatoes in the Basement, Canaries in the Coal Mine
- ◆ Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species
- ◆ Want Ads
- ◆ May and June Garden Guide
- ◆ Final Reminders

# Membership Meeting Minutes—March and April

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting  
March 23, 2021 via Zoom - “The Bulbs of Holland” by Barb Herreid – 1 hour education  
13 members in attendance and Janell Wehr Horticulture Advisor

**Meeting called to order** at 7:03pm by Ruth Cline, President.

**Minutes from February 23, 2021:** Carolyn Schulein moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Judy Miller, motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Only fund raiser this year may be the fall plant sale. Barb Herreid is making applications for grants from Incurage in Rapids and Marshfield Community Foundation. Worm castings will be available for purchase. Exploring Amazon ‘smile’ which designates a charity to receive funds.

**Extension Report:**

**Annual enrollment** must be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>. If not completed, hours will not count for this year and account will be deactivated. Janell Wehr has emailed all those not enrolled and will follow up with phone calls.

**Volunteer Week** – April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 9<sup>th</sup> -- 2 Door Prizes awarded every day

Monday April 5<sup>th</sup> - Communication about a State Wide Program

Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup> – Educational webinar - *Pollinator Gardens: Plant Selection and Garden Care*, by Susan Carpenter 6:30-7:30 p.m. Register at: <https://go.wisc.edu/842s07>

Wednesday April 7<sup>th</sup> – “Thank a Master Gardener Day” with Press Releases and Social Media.

Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup> – Educational webinar – introducing a state wide project to identify pollinators “WI BEE”

Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> – ‘Thank You’ communication from state office

If anyone does not receive the ‘Volunteer Vibe’ – contact Janell Wehr at [Janell.wehr@wisc.edu](mailto:Janell.wehr@wisc.edu)

Onboarding to be completed by all current volunteers from April to December 2021. Counts as 10 education hours. Onboarding located in ‘CANVAS’ through UW. Janell Wehr will provide training and assistance for the CANVAS program.

Virtual Education by Brian Hudelson coming up in April:

1) *Common Tree Diseases*. Sponsored by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. I'll be talking about common tree diseases and their prevention and management. 12:00-1:00 PM, April 15, 2021. To register, go to [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrD-uopj8iHdHfVW\\_xxBoGJrebjrWaBg3](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrD-uopj8iHdHfVW_xxBoGJrebjrWaBg3).

2) *Vegetable Diseases*. Sponsored by UW-Madison Division of Extension Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire Counties. I'll be talking about common vegetable diseases and their prevention and management. 6:30-8:00 PM, April 29, 2021. To register, go to [https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_71H4DrAsURgdzz8](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71H4DrAsURgdzz8).

Other virtual education opportunities will be emailed to all members.

Take Actions to Keep Our Lakes Healthy by Anne Pearce on March 30<sup>th</sup>

Weed Management when Establishing Pollinator Plantings by Mark Renz on March 31<sup>st</sup>

Jumping Worms: The Impact of a New Soil Invader by Brad Herrick on April 21<sup>st</sup>

Outdoor gatherings of 50 people and social distancing may be allowed this summer.

For 2021 projects, email Janell Wehr with names of MGCV who will be working at the project.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Zoom Account** – WCMGV has a Professional Zoom account. Anyone wanting to set up a meeting for committees or projects, contact Barb Herreid.

**Newsletter:** Peg Klinkhammer has retired from WCMGV after March newsletter. Looking for a newsletter editor. WCMGV would purchase ‘Microsoft Publisher’ program to use. Janell Wehr is available to mentor new editor on software program if needed. Newsletter editor does not have to create the articles, but collect the information and then format into a newsletter. Information about position will be sent out to all members for recruitment. If interested in positions, contact Ruth Cline.

**Monthly Meetings:** set up with Zoom for next 3 months; 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 6-8pm with education followed by business meeting.

• April 27<sup>th</sup> – Donna Streiff – Garden Guru - how to set up presentation

• May 25<sup>th</sup> – Jackie Carattini (Wood County Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator) - fruits and vegs

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Rachael Whitehair (Wood County Natural Resource Educator)

Jill Becker will contact the 3 members without emails to see how they would like to receive communications such as meeting minutes and links to meeting invites.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Awards:** CONGRATULATIONS to Jill Becker – 250 hours; Peg Klinkhammer – 500 hours; and Barb Herreid – 5000 hours

**Motion to adjourn** at 7:43pm made by Karleen Remington; seconded by Barb Herried. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting** – April 27, 2021 6-8pm via Zoom; Education by Donna Streiff on “Garden Guru: How to set-up a Presentation”

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sue Wilford, Secretary

**Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting - April 27, 2021 via Zoom –  
Donna Streiff - “How to set-up a Presentation” and “Pruning”– 1 hour education  
17 members in attendance and Janell Wehr Horticulture Advisor**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:04pm by Ruth Cline, President.

**Minutes from March 23, 2021:** Audrey Brundidge moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Barb Herreid, motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Grants from Incourage in Rapids and Marshfield Community Foundation received to help fund projects. Project leaders all notified. Funds not used will need to be returned to the foundations. Project leaders to submit vouchers for expenses to Barb Herried. Orders for worm casings due by Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> and to be delivered by middle of May.

**Extension Report:**

**CANVAS:** an online software that stores UW online class materials. WI Master Gardeners are using it for storing horticulture materials. Janell Wehr shared contents of CANVAS for MGV. MGV were to receive an email from [noreply@welcome.csis.wisc.edu](mailto:noreply@welcome.csis.wisc.edu) with the subject line “UW Madison: Access Your Online Course Site.” If email not received, MGV to email Mike Maddox at [mike.maddox@wisc.edu](mailto:mike.maddox@wisc.edu) (he will resend invite). Must save email for access to CANVAS.

**Onboarding:** Contents stored in CANVAS and get 10 educational credits for completing this module. Have until December to complete.

**Project Leaders:** Email Janell Wehr with names of MGV who will be working at their project.

**OLD BUSINESS - None****NEW BUSINESS:**

**Youth Judging at Fair:** WCMGV will not be assisting with youth judging this year.

**MGV Booth at Marshfield Fair:** Sue Wilford coordinating a smaller booth with emphasis of “Ask a Wood County Master Gardener.” More info to follow. Will need assistance in booth daily; Tuesday, August 23<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Ask a Wood County Master Gardener:**

**Extension Office:** Donna Streiff, Jill Becker, Judy Miller and Sue Wilford will be covering the extension office horticulture questions from the middle of May to end of September. Anyone interested in helping is welcome. This is done virtually from home.

**Farmers Markets** – Marshfield – Sue Wilford setting up Tuesday at Pick n Save. WI Rapids will be set up in ‘community booth’ on Thursdays with Bea Kohl assisting. Anyone interested in either Marshfield or Rapids, contact Sue Wilford.

**Zoom:** Membership meetings are being recorded and found on the Members Only site of website.

**Newsletter editor position open:** Anyone wanting to volunteer to be newsletter editor, contact Ruth Cline. Donne Streiff will be creating the newsletter in May after consulting with Peg Klinkhammer. .

**Community Education Request:** St Luke’s Lutheran Church in WI Rapids submitted a request for help with their memorial garden. Ruth Cline and Chris Grimes will meet with them to decide if this project appropriate for our assistance.

**Updated Membership List:** New listing posted on ‘Members Only’ site. 5 members did not enroll on ORS by March 31<sup>st</sup> and thus their accounts are deactivated. They will need to enroll in January 2022. Question how they were notified by State as two have no email access. Ruth Cline will contact the individuals to determine if they were notified and then contact Mike Maddox at State to clarify their situation. All five members have paid dues to WCMGV.

**Motion to adjourn** at 8:08pm made by Barb Herried; seconded by Karleen Remington. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting** – May 25, 2021 6-8pm via Zoom; Education by Jackie Carattini, Wood County Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator. Program: “Freezing Fruits and Vegetables”

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sue Wilford, Secretary

## Free Educational Events On-line from UW-Extension

***These are free online events, but registration is required. Please note there is a separate registration for each.***

Any questions, contact Julie Hill at [julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu)

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### **Testing, Amending, and Managing Gardens Soil Health presented by Doug Soldat Tuesday, May 18 6:00-7:00 p.m. (CST)**

Join Dr. Doug Soldat from the Department of Soil Science at UW-Madison to learn how you can create and maintain healthy soil in your landscape and gardens. You will learn how to conduct a soil test and interpret the results. We will also discuss various amendments to improve your soils for greater gardening success!



for

***This event is free, but registration is required. Please use the following link to register: <https://go.wisc.edu/461n76>***

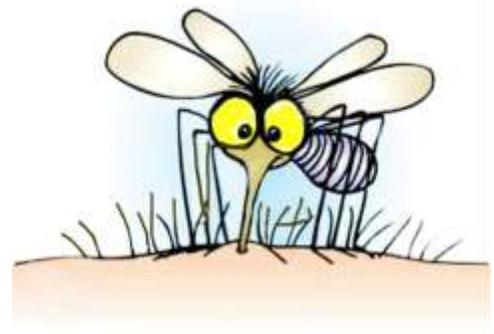
Presented by:

Doug Soldat is a turfgrass and urban soil specialist in the Department of Soil Science at UW-Madison where he teaches General Soil Science and other classes on soils and turfgrass management. Doug grew up in Janesville, WI and completed his undergraduate and MS degrees at UW-Madison before earning a Ph.D. at Cornell University in upstate New York.

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### **The Buzz About Mosquitoes presented by PJ Liesch Monday, May 24 12:00-1:00 p.m. (CST)**

Wisconsin is home to nearly 60 mosquito species, meaning there are plenty of different types to pester us during the warmer months. In this webinar, we'll review the basic biology of mosquitoes, debunk common mosquito myths, and discuss ways to protect ourselves and our families from mosquitoes.



***This is a free event, but registration is required. Please register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/2xx44i>***

Presented by:

Patrick (PJ) Liesch is a statewide Extension entomology specialist and has served as the director of the University of Wisconsin Insect Diagnostic Lab (IDL) since 2014. PJ also provides entomology-related outreach throughout the state, including regular appearances on Wisconsin Public Radio's *The Larry Meiller Show*.



**How do pesticides affect pollinators and songbirds in your yard?  
presented by Lynn Markham**

**Tuesday, June 1**

**12:00-1:00 p.m. (CST)**

Maybe you've heard news stories about declines in pollinators and songbirds. In this webinar, we'll take a look at what research studies have found about how pesticides affect pollinators and songbirds, and then check out examples of what people have done to help in their yards and communities.

***This is a free event, but registration is required. Please register***

***here: <https://go.wisc.edu/6w5uae>***

Presented by:

Lynn Markham has 20 years of experience as an Extension Land Use Statewide Specialist based at UW-Stevens Point. Her Extension work has focused on land use tools and techniques to protect natural resources. To assist communities, Lynn provides research-based information, policy options and community case studies. She holds a Master's De-gree in Bio-chemistry from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Ripon College.

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**Insect Pest Management in Small Gardens presented by PJ Liesch**

**Thursday, June 17**

**6:30-7:30 p.m. (CST)**

Do you have raised bed gardens, plants in containers, or a small community garden plot? Have you also dealt with insects and want to know how to reduce their damage? If so, this talk is for you. This webinar will discuss a variety of different approaches to manage insect pests in small garden settings.

***This is a free event, but registration is required. Please register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/7nnt91>***

Presented by:

Patrick (PJ) Liesch is a statewide Extension entomology specialist and has served the director of the University of Wisconsin Insect Diagnostic Lab (IDL) since 2014. PJ also provides entomology-related outreach throughout the state, including regular appearances on Wisconsin Public Radio's *The Larry Meiller Show*.



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Find articles, resources, educational events and more at UW-Madison Division of Extension's Horticulture page

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu>

And don't forget to check out our UW-Madison Division of Extension's Calendar of Events

<https://extension.wisc.edu/events>

## More Continuing Education Opportunities by Melinda Myers

June 3, 2021

### Creative Container Gardening

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. central (Live Webinar)** - Don't let a lack of space stop you from gardening. Create your own bit of paradise in a pot. Combine long blooming plants with bold foliage for growing colorful containers in Wisconsin all season long. Fill planters with your favorite vegetables and herbs and flowers that attract pollinators. Use containers to create privacy, muffle unwanted noise and dress up a bare wall. I will finish off the discussion with tips to keep your planters looking their best and allow time to answer your gardening questions.



This virtual seminar is free, but registration is required.

**Register now**

Registrants will receive a link to the handout in a webinar reminder before the live webinar.

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June 9, 2021

### Sustainable Lawn and Landscape Care

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. central (Live Webinar)** - Reduce maintenance and improve the health and beauty of your lawn and landscape with sustainable care. Incorporating organic matter into the soil and mulching improves and protects the soil and helps keep water where it falls. This results in healthier gardens and lawns and less work for you. Capturing rainwater in rain barrels and rain gardens means water stays in your yard, supports your plants, and helps reduce the risk of basement flooding and sewer overflows. Melinda will provide an overview of environmentally-friendly lawn and garden maintenance strategies, including safe pest management. This virtual seminar is free, but registration is required.



**Register now**

Registrants will receive a link to the handout in a webinar reminder before the live webinar.

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June 10, 2021

### Gardening During the Summer Months

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. central (Live Webinar)** - Keep your Wisconsin gardens and containers looking their best throughout the summer. Replace fading spring annuals with fresh new summer flowers. Dress up your landscape with hanging baskets, a few new trees, shrubs or perennials and perhaps a new garden bed or two. Keep new additions looking their best with proper post planting care. Employ a bit of pinching, deadheading, and summer care to maintain the beauty of all your new and established plantings. We'll end with answering your gardening questions.



This virtual seminar is free, but registration is required.

**Register now**

Registrants will receive a link to the handout in a webinar reminder before the live webinar.

Miss a past Melinda Myers webinar? For a limited time, **watch them on demand**.

If links don't work, go to Melinda Myers website ([www.melindamyers.com/](http://www.melindamyers.com/)). Scroll down the right side of the page to find Upcoming Appearances, click on the purple button "Learn More" and use the link there to register. If you miss her programs, keep scrolling down to the brown button that says "On Demand" to get links to previous programs and handouts.

## **Additional Resources for MGVs**

### **'FACT SHEETS' updates/additions from UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC)**

The following fact sheets have been recently updated or added by Brian Hudelson from PDDC. These fact sheets include the most recent recommendations for control/treatment. You can find all 'fact sheets' at the PDDC website: <https://pddc.wisc.edu/>

**Peach Leaf Curl** - [Peach Leaf Curl.pdf \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Fleas** - [Fleas.pdf \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Homeowners Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments** - [Homeowner Guide to EAB Insecticide Treatments.pdf \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Professional Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments** - [Professional Guide to EAB Insecticide Treatments.pdf \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Lily Leaf Beetle** - [Lily Leaf Beetle.pdf \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Viburnum Leaf Beetle** - [Viburnum Leaf Beetle.pdf \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Ten Common Plant Disease/Disorders You Can Diagnose by Eye**  
[Ten Common Plant Diseases Disorders You Can Diagnose by Eye.pdf \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Beginning Vegetable Garden Basis: Site Selection and Soil Preparation** [https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact\\_Sheets/FC\\_PDF/Beginning\\_Vegetable\\_Gardening\\_Basics\\_Site\\_Selection\\_and\\_Soil\\_Preparation.pdf](https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Beginning_Vegetable_Gardening_Basics_Site_Selection_and_Soil_Preparation.pdf)

# Project Updates for 2021

## Ask a Master Gardener at Farmer's Market

We have been given the go ahead to begin setting up our 'Ask a Wood County Master Gardener' booth at the Farmer's Markets. In Marshfield, it starts on Tuesday, June 1st from 8 - 1pm at Pick N Save. In WI Rapids, it starts on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8-2pm located on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue between W. Grand Ave and Goggins Street. Sue Wilford will be facilitating the Marshfield market and Bea Kohl will facilitate the Rapids market. We are looking for assistance and willing to buddy with whoever would like to help.

Anyone willing to assist in being a resource at the markets, please contact Sue Wilford at 715-652-6129 or [swilford@tds.net](mailto:swilford@tds.net).

## Central Wisconsin State Fair

WCMGV plans to attend the Central Wisconsin State Fair in Marshfield which is being held from Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Tentatively, we plan on a small booth with the main focus being, "Ask a Wood County Master Gardener." We would need to staff the booth for 6 days in 2 or 3 shifts per day. Sue Wilford will coordinate this project and hope you will consider helping some time during this week. More info to follow.

## Answering Questions from the Extension Office

Once again, the WCMGV will be answering questions submitted to the extension office. Jill Becker, July Miller, Donna Streiff and Sue Wilford will be researching and answering horticulture questions virtually from their own home. Anyone who wants to be involved and learn the process, contact any one of us or Janell Wehr. Despite the extension office opening up this summer, we will continue to work virtually from home. Questions can be submitted by:

Extension Phone – 715-421-8440

WCMGV email – [woodcountymga@gmail.com](mailto:woodcountymga@gmail.com); may attach picture of issue

Extension Office – ask question or submit sample, once office is open for business.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS AID MG PROJECTS

The Incurage Foundation of Wisconsin Rapids and the Marshfield Area Community Foundation both funded "rescue" or "bridge" grants to WCMGV in-ground gardening projects in early April. Each foundation contributed to projects within their service area.

The grants generally support projects at 50% of the 2021 MG funding request from the project chairpersons. A few in-ground projects in South Wood County were supported at 100% because of the relationship of Incurage Foundation with funds available in outlying communities.

The grants will support each project in whatever is deemed most necessary to successfully carry it over into 2022. That's when WCMGV hope to be able to activate our fund raising projects again. The grants also help fill in lost Master Gardener contributions to the Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield community gardens....including the construction of 3 elevated raised beds at one of the Marshfield garden sites.

Both foundations agreed with the Master Gardeners concerning the importance of enhanced outdoor spaces for local communities....especially during this pandemic time.

Grant proposals were written by Barb Herreid and Karleen Remington.

## April 2021: Tomato in the Basement, Canary in the Coalmine

APRIL 18, 2021 DDLANG



I have the coolest job on the planet. Everyday, I get to help people with their plant disease problems. This may entail helping someone learn how to grow healthy, nutritious vegetables to feed their family or assisting a grieving family select the just the right tree to plant to serve as a lasting memorial for a recently lost loved one. On occasion, I get to help Wisconsin farmers avoid severe economic losses due to plant diseases or help prevent the introduction of federally regulated plant pathogens that potentially can have negative impacts nationwide. This month, I'd like to share with you a diagnostic case where a proper diagnosis had the potential to save someone's life.

I recently received photos from a home gardener who was growing tomato transplants indoors. She was concerned that her plants were not doing well and losing leaves. Her photos showed plants with leaves that were cupping downward and showed twisted petioles and other growth distortions. I was immediately suspicious that the plants had been exposed to ethylene. Ethylene is a gas that is a plant growth hormone that can be very beneficial for proper plant development; in particular, ethylene is important in fruit ripening. But in other situations, when plants are exposed at the wrong time or at too high of a concentration, ethylene can have negative effects, in fact exactly the sort of symptoms I was seeing in my client's photos: distorted plant growth and premature leaf loss.

After an exchange of several emails, the puzzle pieces started to fall into place. My client had been growing her tomatoes in the basement (not uncommon for many gardeners) next to the boiler that provided heat for her home. As the weather warmed up, she moved the plants to her garage where she parks her car and where she has a full kitchen. She had been cooking in this kitchen recently to provide a bit of additional warmth for her plants. Both her boiler and stove burn propane.



At this point, alarm bells were going off. If propane burners malfunction and don't burn propane completely, one of the breakdown products of this incomplete combustion is ethylene. You can also find ethylene in exhaust fumes from motor vehicles, in the smoke produced by wood-burning stoves and as a contaminant in natural gas. I suggested to my client that she should have her boiler and stove checked immediately for problems. One or both of these (and possibly also fumes from her car) were likely the source of ethylene that was causing problems for her tomatoes. She emailed back to tell me that what I

had told her made perfect sense as her tomatoes nearer the boiler had more severe symptoms than those farther away. Another sentence from this email became the inspiration for the title of this article: "So the tomatoes plants in the basement acted like a canary in a coalmine."

I told her that she was spot on with her analogy, and at that point, I gave potentially even more serious news. In addition to producing ethylene, malfunctioning propane burners (and other types of heating systems) also can produce carbon monoxide, a potentially deadly gas. According to the CDC, approximately 50,000 people visit hospitals with carbon monoxide poisoning each year and at least 430 of these people die from this poisoning. Luckily, my client had a carbon monoxide detector near the boiler and it hadn't gone off. But, the unit was old, and my client indicated that our conversation had made her realize that she needed to replace that unit.

What if she **hadn't** had a carbon monoxide detector? Then, those distorted tomatoes would have been her first hint that a potentially deadly carbon monoxide situation was developing. Similarly, if she had had distorted tomatoes growing near a natural gas-fueled furnace, that could have indicated a natural gas leak, another potentially lethal situation. Ah, the power of a lowly vegetable and a bit of knowledge about how they grow!

## **Help Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants in Wisconsin**

By Melinda Myers

June is Invasive Species Action Month in Wisconsin. This is a good reminder to watch for [unwanted plants, insects, and invasive species](#) in our gardens, waterways and other natural spaces. Spotting them early and stopping their spread can reduce the amount of time and money needed to eliminate these invasive organisms.

Some invasive species like honeysuckle, buckthorn, Japanese barberry, and Amur Cork Tree were once prized, low maintenance landscape plants. Their vigorous, adaptive nature allowed them to leave our gardens and move into natural spaces. They crowd out native plants and disrupt the ecosystem, limiting critical resources needed by native insects, birds, and other wildlife.

Other invasive species move into our state and natural spaces on boats, bikes, cars, firewood and even our shoes. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Invasive Species Council and I are asking for your help. If you see a population of one of these [nine prohibited species](#), please report it to [invasive.species@wisconsin.gov](mailto:invasive.species@wisconsin.gov) and continue to watch for, manage and [report](#) other known invasive garden and water plants.

As an influencer in the gardening world, I am asking you to help inform and inspire others to join this effort. Many of you already do, so thanks. Perhaps you can enlist others to do the same or find additional ways to spread the word.

Let others know that each one of us can make a difference by helping remove these invaders from our landscapes and water features. Once out of your landscape or water feature, dispose of them properly to prevent them from ending up in someone else's garden, our waterways, or other natural spaces. Check with your local municipality for disposal recommendations. You can dispose of invasive plants in the garbage by placing them in a plastic bag marked "invasive approved by WDNR for landfilling." Avoid the problem and extra work by selecting [non-invasive plants](#) when planning and planting any garden.

See how other [organizations](#) have partnered with the Department of Natural Resources to help manage unwanted harmful organisms. Then read the [stories](#) from the 2020 Invader Crusader Award winners and watch in June for the 2021 winners for some additional inspiration.

Thanks for all you do to help gardeners and homeowners. Working together we can make a difference as we preserve our waterways, lakes, and other natural spaces.

*Melinda Myers is the author of numerous gardening [books](#). She hosts the "How to Grow Anything" DVD [series](#) and the [Melinda's Garden Moment](#) TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).*



## Help Wanted

We have two vacancies in our Communication team and are looking for 2 people to take over these activities. (You can also share these responsibilities with another volunteer). These positions are vital for keeping our membership informed of association activities and publicizing our events to the public.

One is the **Newsletter Editor**, who compiles information, inserts it into the Newsletter template, and sends to the Extension office and the Communication Representative (me), who emails it to membership. Articles are submitted by many people, so you don't have to do all the writing yourself!

The job description:

1. Compiles and formats monthly organization newsletter
2. Composes articles for the newsletter in conjunction with Officers, Project Chairs, Standing and Special committee representatives, and other Communications Team members. Submits newsletter by mid month to Communication Representative, Publicity Representative, and Extension office staff for distribution to membership and posting on website

The other is **Publicity Director** who is responsible for contacting radio, TV, print media, and online media, as appropriate to publicize our educational events and fundraisers. These days, information is mostly shared online, so this is not time consuming. We have a list of media outlets and contacts to guide you.

The job description:

- Compose and submit information related to WCMGVA activities and events to broadcast (TV, radio, CCTV), print, and internet sources for dissemination to the public.
  - Coordinate event announcements with WCMGVA newsletter editor and other social media administrators.
- Serve as co-administrator of website and/or social media pages.

**Please consider agreeing to fill one of these positions. Our organization needs good communication within and outside to the community to be successful.**

**The possibility exists for sharing the duties for these positions so find a partner and give it a try.**

## 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.



Gladioli (*Gladiolus* L.) bulbs CREATIVE

# June Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

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

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**Newsletter Editor**

## **OPEN POSITION**

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 10th of the month to [woodcountymga@gmail.com](mailto:woodcountymga@gmail.com).

**Public Relations Chair**

## **OPEN POSITION**

Lead time for television and newspaper is four weeks. Call a board member 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.

## **Final Reminders**

### **Garden Projects**

With the relaxation of some of the COVID restrictions, we are now able to do some projects with other folks that we could not do last summer. If you are planning on working on a garden site project, remember to let Janell know what project you are working on and who the members are that are going to possibly be working there. This is a one time application for approval.

### **Fall Plant Sale**

We need ideas for items we can sell at the Fall Plant Sale in lieu of the “dug” plants we did in the past. Any ideas would be welcome. Contact Jill Becker, Karleen Remington, or Donna Streiff with your ideas.