

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

July-August 2021

WCMGV Program Information for 2021

WCMGV Meetings in the Fresh Air (July and August)

Sue Wilford will be hosting us at the Wilford *Alpha and Omega Ranch* near Richfield on **July 27 at 6 PM**. Directions from Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield as well as a brief description of their ranch setting follow this article. We are probably all familiar with the covid protocols for public gatherings, so I will only remind you to (1) bring your **mask** (sometimes we can't be 6 feet apart) (2) maintain **social distancing**, (3) utilize **hand sanitizer** and (4) **sign in** as you arrive (in case there is a need for contact tracing). I will bring a supply of disposable masks if you forget yours. BYO lawn chair for the business meeting following the tour. And wear comfortable walking shoes.

The Master Gardeners working at the South Wood County Historical museum will host us on **August 24 at 6 PM** in a tour of the museum gardens and share the newly installed memorial honoring Nancy Alger. Assuming there are no covid guideline changes, we will observe the same protocols as described above. Directions from Marshfield to the historical museum will be sent via e-mail closer to the August meeting date.

Come and enjoy the peaceful and quiet surroundings at the Alpha & Omega Ranch.

Sue and Dale purchased this 23 acres in 2003 and have continued to enhance the landscape which includes a pond and creek running through the pasture. They have added vegetable gardens, flower beds, a berry patch, and an apple orchard. Although there had been up to 6 horses on the ranch, there are currently 5 chickens, 2 cats and 2 beehives, as well as an abundance of wildlife: eagles, deer, turkeys, fox, raccoon, skunks, rabbits, Sandhill cranes, ducks, frogs, fish, etc. Certainly a little bit of something for everyone! [Bring lawn chair and wear comfortable walking shoes.](#)



If you use GPS, it will give you accurate directions to: 7458 Richfield Drive, Arpin, WI.

Home phone number is: 715-652-6129; cell phone: 715-305-6325

Directions from Rapids: Take West Grand Ave (Hwy 73) west. Turn right onto Hwy 186. Take Hwy 186 past Arpin about 2 miles and turn left onto Richfield Drive. Travel about 3-4 miles west on Richfield Drive. Home on the right – Beige with green shutters with red shed and barn.

Directions from Marshfield: Take Veterans Parkway south. Cross over Hwy 10 and stay on Cty A. Go about 4 miles south on A, turn left onto Richfield Drive. (By Richfield Municipal building) Travel about 3-4 miles and home is on the left hand side (second home on left after stop sign at Cty T) Home is beige with green shutters with red shed and barn.

- ◆ WCMGV May and June Minutes p. 2-3
- ◆ Member Articles of Interest p. 8
- ◆ Upcoming Educational Opportunities p.4
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- ◆ Projects Updates p.5 –7
- ◆ May and June Garden Guide p. 10-11

Membership Meeting Minutes—May and June

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting May 25, 2021 via Zoom –

“Freezing Fruits and Vegetables” by Jackie Carattini, Wood County Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator – 1 hour education

17 members in attendance and Janell Wehr Horticulture Advisor

Meeting called to order at 6:27pm by Ruth Cline, President.

Minutes from April 27, 2021: Lynn Bushmaker moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Patty Farley, motion carried.

Zoom: Barb Herreid explained functions of Zoom to help with meeting protocol: 1) Use View in upper right hand corner to choose gallery or speaker view; 2) Use Chat button to type in comment to everyone or to just one person; 3) Keep mic on mute unless speaking. Click ‘Reactions’ tab to raise hand if want to speak; or physically raise hand.

Financial Report: Expenses and income shared by Barb Herreid.

Extension Report: New COVID guidelines as of June 1st. Will be emailed out to all members.

NEW BUSINESS:

MGV Booth at Marshfield State Fair – Tuesday, August 23rd to Sunday, August 29th. Booth to be in Hockey building with open class and staffed from 11am to 5pm (2 – 3hour shifts each day). Focus will be ‘Ask a Master Gardener.’ Opportunity to provide a demonstration or short talk, if anyone is interested.

Ask a Master Gardener Update: Farmers Markets – Marshfield – Tuesday at Pick n Save from 8-11.. Bea Kohl/Sue Wilford will be in ‘community booth’ in Rapids Farmer’s Market on Thursdays, June 17th, July 15th, and August 19th. **Extension Office:** Donna Streiff, Jill Becker, Judy Miller and Sue Wilford are covering the extension office horticulture questions virtually from home.

Update on Open Positions/Newsletter Editor – Donna Streiff shared how to use publisher to create the newsletter. Still looking for someone to volunteer to be editor. WCMGV would purchase publisher program for new editor.

Community Education Request Update – Chris Grimes and Ruth Cline met with St Luke’s Lutheran Church in Rapids who requested assistance with their memorial gardens. Created document outlines questions for them to consider with Extension & Master Gardener resources.

Fall Plant Sale Update – Maple Fest in Marshfield September 18th & 19th: Plant sale plans shared which include: native plants grown from seeds, succulent plants, house plants, dried flower arrangements, painted rocks, bookmarks, etc. Committee meeting June 2nd from 9-11 at home of Donna Streiff or via Zoom. Committee is Jill Becker, Bea Kohl, Joyce Fischer, Donna Streiff, and Karleen Remington. Anyone interested in attending meeting, working day of sale or have any input ideas, contact any committee member.

Garden Walk Update: Barb Herreid, Chris Grimes and Bea Kohl met as a committee to discuss options for 2022 garden walk. Anyone who has suggestions, contact Barb Herreid.

Training of new MGV: Horticulture Education will occur September to December 2021. Onboarding would be completed January to March 2022. Marketing Materials being developed and should be ready by second week of June. Registration for Horticulture class July to August. Sue Wilford and Bea Kohl requested marketing materials for farmers market – to promote the education and becoming a MGV.

BOD concern: As Board addresses plans for future with changes and decrease in membership, send concerns, input and ideas to Ruth Cline.

Lily Leaf Beetle: Out in full force in Marshfield area – devouring the lilies.

Motion to adjourn at 7:37pm made by Donna Streiff; seconded by Bea Kohl. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – June 22, 2021 6-8pm via Zoom; Education by Rachael Whitehair, Natural Resources Educator from UW Extension.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Wilford, Secretary

**Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting
June 22, 2021 via Zoom — 1 hour education
Rachael Whitehair, Natural Resources Educator-UW Extension.
14 members in attendance and Janell Wehr Horticulture Advisor**

Meeting called to order at 6:58pm by Ruth Cline, President.

Minutes from May 25, 2021: Karleen Remington moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Barb Herreid, motion carried.

Financial Report: Expenses and income shared by Barb Herreid. A small amount of funds were raised from sale of worm castings, which were all distributed.

Extension Report: New COVID guidelines sent out. No other updates.

NEW BUSINESS:

MGV Booth at Marshfield State Fair: Due to new COVID guidelines, we will not be sponsoring a booth at the fair. Option may be to set up ‘Ask a Master Gardener’ tent for one day outside.

Ask a Master Gardener Update: Tuesdays in Marshfield; three Thursdays in Rapids. Had 35 people stop at booth last Thursday, staffed by Bea Kohl and Sue Wilford. Almost every time there is follow up to client questions and needing to send information.

Update on Open Positions/Newsletter Editor – Still looking for someone to be newsletter editor. Jill Becker suggested that person does not need to be a MGV, but could be a HS student or college student that we could recruit.

Fall Plant Sale Update – Maple Fest in Marshfield September 18th & 19th. Committee consists of Jill Becker, Karleen Remington, Donna Streiff, Bea Kohl and Joyce Fischer. With plant sale outside can host in accordance with COVID guidelines. Cannot provide plants that we have dug from our gardens, however, plans under way for the following.

Plants: natives grown from seeds, succulents, houseplants

Dry Arrangements – collect weeds and flowers that are dried

Garden Décor: well-kept/like new – bird houses, bird baths, stepping stones, gift baskets, baskets, garden statues, painted rocks of all sizes, etc.

Seeds – seeds collected from our gardens

Bulbs – Jill Becker checking if bulbs are an issue with jumping worms

Suggested to give away cook books to those who spend a certain amount of money on items.

Ask a Master Gardener booths

Garden Walk Update: Due to COVID, there will be no garden walk this year. Due to only 3 committee members and reduced number of MGV, we would be unable to sponsor Garden Walk in 2022. Therefore, board voted to put Garden Walk on hold for 2022.

July/August Newsletter articles due: Send to woodcountymga@gmail.com by July 6th. Donna Streiff will create the July/August newsletter to be distributed the week of July 18th.

Retirement: Ruth Cline announced that she will be retiring at the end of this year and that Karleen Remington is not able to assume the President position. Will need nomination for President for 2022.

Future Membership meetings: starting in September, will have in person meetings. Will consider having meetings face to face and with zoom, if possible, for those who can't attend in person. Pam from Mead Wildlife offered the new remodeled amphitheater for our meetings in future.

Motion to adjourn at 7:57pm made by Karleen Remington; seconded by Bea Kohl. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – July 27, 2021 6-8pm – Sue Wilford's home at 7458 Richfield Drive, Arpin. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a lawn chair. Directions will be posted in next newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Wilford, Secretary

Educational Opportunities

Free Educational Events

Melinda Myers Upcoming Webinars

July 20, 2021 - Webinar: "Ask the Plant Doctor" Question & Answer Session

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. central - Now that we're well into the growing season, you may have some pressing gardening questions or issues. Gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers is back for a live Question & Answer session to field your questions, discuss problems she is finding in gardens and landscapes, and share solutions to help you be successful in your gardening endeavors. The webinar is free, but registration is required.



July 28, 2021 - Webinar: Rain Garden Maintenance

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 pm. central - Your rain garden plants are in place and now you are faced with keeping the plants flourishing and your garden looking and functioning its best. Melinda will share tips on watering new plantings and when to lend nature a hand during drought. Learn ways to manage weeds and plants that have outgrown or are not thriving in their space. The webinar is free, but registration is required.

To register, go to <http://www.melindamyers.com>, scroll down under Upcoming Appearances on the right side and click on the purple "Learn More" button. There are still many recordings available from her spring webinars that you can view.

In addition to the webinars, she has a list of in-person appearances for the rest of the summer.

UW-Madison Extension Horticulture Opportunities

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>

Project Updates

Fall Plant Sale.....Everyone's Chance to Contribute

The Fall Plant Sale on September 18 and 19 is an opportunity for **all members** to contribute toward renewing **the fiscal health** of our WCMGV organization.....through time spent or donations made or both. So far a planning committee has been formed, a spot is reserved at the Marshfield Maple Fall Fest, several members are experimenting with raising native plants from seeds(Yeah! and Thank You to those brave MGVs), and an order for perennial plants suitable for fall planting has been submitted.

REMEMBER: No plants dug from our gardens can be sold due to the presence of jumping worms in the county. All plants must be potted in cleaned and sterile pots with potting soil and grown from seed or started as slips. To clarify what plant materials we can sell:

- Bulbs that have been cleaned of all soil and dried
- Plants started from seed or slips planted as described above
- Houseplants
- Single plants that may be combined with others
- Fairy gardens and other small tabletop gardens
- Seeds collected this year for planting next spring
- Dried plant materials for our famous bouquets (some of our best sellers)

Because of the “no dig” restriction we are trying to include other items related to gardening that can be sold to help make up for the increased costs of purchasing plants for sale. Below is a list of items that you can set aside and donate to the sale. **You may think of more. All need to be new or gently used, clean and in working order.**

- Garden books and magazines (recent publishing dates)
- Garden art/décor Indoor planting accessories
- Baskets Trellises and supports
- Benches Garden tools/equipment
- Bird baths Planters
- Bird feeders Stepping stones
- Clean flower pots Garden themed cookbooks
- Houses for bats & bees Bird houses
- Garden creatures/sculptures

Project Updates for 2021

Contact one of the committee members listed below and let us know what you plan to donate. It will help us with our further plans.

Jill Becker (jb5mfld15@gmail.com)

Donna Streiff (streiffonclay@tds.net)

Karleen Remington (karleenbobremington@gmail.com)

Bea Kohl (kohl@charter.net)

Joyce Fischer (joycemstaab@gmail.com)

So here is the short version of the plan:

July & August

Nurture table-top gardens, collect items to donate, grow natives

Collect plant materials for dried fall bouquets

Use your talents in creating garden art

Let us know what you are doing (see above contact list)

September 17, 18 & 19 (Save the dates)

September 17: Set up

September 18 & 19: Donate some time with sales or
the **Ask a Master Gardener** tent

NOTE: We have been given permission for retired Master Gardeners, family and friends, and current garden club members to also participate as long as they don't identify themselves as Certified Master Gardeners. This could be a grand post-COVID reunion since we did not get to recognize and send off our retired members last year!!

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 runs from 8 - 1pm at Pick N Save. In WI Rapids, from 8-2pm located on 1st 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.

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; may attach picture of issue
Extension Office – ask question or submit sample, once office is open for business.

Central Wisconsin State Fair

Due to COVID restrictions in place June 1 and the uncertainty that they will be relaxed, WCMGV will not be present at the Central Wisconsin State Fair this year. Our booth was moved to the hockey building which is an inside venue and would have tighter restrictions on masks and numbers of attendees. Hopefully we can be back in full force next year!!

Just a head's up from Chris Grimes, communications representative...



If you are expecting an email relating to MGV activities (zoom meeting links, project announcements, etc.) and it is getting close to your activity time, check your spam file to see if the email was caught there. Sometimes attachments on emails are flagged as potential spam by some internet providers, but not all. I usually send out zoom links and other time sensitive announcements 2 or more days ahead. Check with me by email or phone if you have not received the information you need.

From Our Members

In My Garden

Recently I was weeding and mulching my vegetable beds and made a discovery. The last two years, heavy rains had washed all the pathway wood chips to one corner of the fenced in area. I tried several times to redistribute them but after every cloudburst they ended up there again. So last summer I gave up and was treated to a patch of



dill plants as thick as the hair on a dog's back. I used some and dried some, and eventually the dill went to seed before I could get to pulling them. This year, I had dill coming up everywhere in the paths and the beds. I have been working on getting things planted around being gone and the fickle weather so the dill kept growing wherever I didn't pull it. So now as I am making my final pass at weeding and mulching for the summer, I started to notice green striped caterpillars on the dill. I have had one or two



such caterpillars in the past on my carrot plants, but not like this. I counted 31 caterpillars before I lost count as to who I had or had not counted! That was not counting a few I found that I had inadvertently squished in the pathways. I found all sizes from barely visible to almost two inch fat ones! I knew swallowtail butterflies use carrot family plants for their host plants so I did a little research and found out they were black swallowtail caterpillars.

They are funny little creatures. When I tried to move some from the pathway plants to a safer location, they instantly sent out two orange antennae that looked like a forked snake tongue and literally put up a STINK. As soon as they felt safe they just quickly retracted the antennae and went on happily munching. Then just as suddenly as they seemed to appear, they were all gone! I am looking forward to scouting for their chrysalises around the garden and hopefully seeing a few fluttering around later this summer! So for once, my procrastination in garden clean-up paid off big time! —Donna Streiff



Have something interesting happening in your yard or gardens? Please share so we can all enjoy! Submit to the newsletter by sending an email to woodcountymga@gmail.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.

July Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Water gladiolus and dahlias weekly to a depth of 6-8 inches.
- Water flower beds at least once a week during dry spells. Remove old lily blooms.
- Peony bushes should be mulched and seedpods removed.
- Take cuttings from roses and spring flowering shrubs for new plant propagation when stems are no longer succulent but not yet hardened.
- Cut old canes of climbing roses so those new shoots can grow.
- Control rust on hollyhock by removing infected leaves.
- Divide iris and day lily when done blooming. Cut leaves back to about 8 inches.
- Thin and transplant perennials sown in June.
- Complete outdoor sowing of perennial seed.
- Inspect vegetables and herbs for pests daily and treat if necessary.
- Control garden weeds to prevent them from going to seed.
- Harvest onions and early potatoes when tops begin to shrivel.
- In early July, plant lettuce and spinach for fall crop. Pre-germinate on moist towel or plant deeper than in spring. Plant kale, bunching onions, cucumbers, beets, rutabagas and turnips, cabbage family seedlings and peas for fall harvest.
- Keep tomatoes mulched and watered to prevent blossom end rot.
- Keep ripe vegetables picked to maintain productivity.
- Watch for spider mites during hot, dry weather. Juniper and spruce needles turn rusty colored if infested.
- Water newly planted trees weekly if needed throughout the summer and apply a mulch (3 inches or less) to maintain even soil moisture.
- During dry spells, water all trees deeply every 2-3 weeks.
- Remove suckers from grafted plants. Water fruit trees during dry spells or they may abort fruit. Trees need 1 inch of water weekly during fruit growth.
- Prune yews, junipers and arborvitae by mid-July.
- Remove old canes of summer bearing red raspberries after harvest. Thin new canes to 3-4 canes per foot of row or 9-10 canes per hill. For black raspberries, thin new canes to 10 per hill. Cut tips of new canes back around July 1. Cut back raspberry tips back to two feet above the soil level and blackberry tips back to four feet above soil level. Cut purple and yellow raspberry tips to 30-36 inches above the soil.
- Keep orchard grass mowed and raked to discourage fungal pathogens harbored in tall grass and plant debris. Hang baited red sticky ball traps in apple trees for apple maggot control.



August Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Mulch dahlias to conserve moisture and eliminate weeds.
- Stake plants with heavy blooms.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.
- Keep phlox plants deadheaded. Never let phlox go to seed if you want to keep colors true.
- Start seeds of daisy, coreopsis, sweet william and pansy in peat pots or nursery beds. Transfer to permanent beds in late September. or early October.
- Cut gladiolus blooms leaving maximum amount of foliage on plants.
- Transplant and divide iris and day lily.
- Watch for red spider mites on phlox.
- In mid-month, take cuttings of coleus, geraniums and other plants for winter houseplants.
- Plant chrysanthemums for fall color. Fall planted chrysanthemums need extra winter protection.
- Plant Madonna lily and Japanese and Siberian iris.
- Continue watering flowerbeds at least once a week during dry periods.
- Plant or transplant oriental poppies. Do not mulch, as they prefer hot, sunbaked ground.
- Bring poinsettias indoors.
- By the end of the month, start withholding water from amaryllis. Amaryllis requires an eight-week period of drought to bloom. Place in cool basement for three-month rest.
- Sow cover crops in vegetable garden areas not in use.
- Cut and dry or freeze herbs. Pick herbs just before blossoms open for best flavor.
- Inspect corn regularly. Corn pests become abundant in mid-August.
- Keep eggplant and peppers picked so younger fruit develops.
- Plant late crops of radishes, lettuce, spinach and beets.
- Mid-August to mid-September is the best time to establish grass seed. Keep soil moist at all times or seed will dry and die.
- Plant evergreens now through mid-September so they are well established before winter.
- Remove thatch from lawn if more than one-half inch thick.
- Tip layer black and purple raspberries for replacement.
- Fertilize strawberries with 10-10-10 fertilizer applied at 2-3 pounds per 100 square feet. Thin plants if needed.
- Maintain lime-sulfur spray program on tree fruit to control apple and pear scab and certain other diseases.
- Collect and bury diseased, mummified plums for future brown-rot control.



2021 WCMGV Board of Directors

President—Ruth Cline
stonegate1944@gmail.com
715-569-4202

Vice President—Karleen Remington
karleenbobremington@gmail.com
715-387-1863

Secretary—Sue Wilford
swilford@tds.net
715-652-6129

Treasurer—Barb Herreid
bherreid@wctc.net
715-325-2075

Director—Jill Becker
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Director—Ann Rozner
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Director—Bea Kohl
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Director—Donna Streiff
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Communications Rep.—Chris Grimes
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715-424-2878

WIMGA Rep—Michealeen Erikson
GaryMicky@charter.net
715-435-3616

Wood County Extension Horticultural Agent—Janell Wehr
janell.wehr@wisc.edu

Newsletter Editor **OPEN POSITION**

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 10th of the month to woodcountym-ga@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.

Open Positions

Please seriously consider one of the open positions, Newsletter Editor or Public Relations Chair. These positions can be shared between two or more people if you do not want to go it alone. Training for both positions are available.