

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

January 2022

President's Message for 2022

As 2021 and the Christmas season comes to a close, I wish you and your family a very Healthy and Happy New Year. I certainly am looking forward to 2022. As a MGVA organization, we have many changes and challenges ahead of us, which I like to think of as opportunities.

None of us like change. We feel out of control. I have a sense of anxiety when I have to get a new computer or a new phone. Learning the ins and outs of the new updated version causes me so much frustration. But eventually it all falls into place, with lots of patience. When thinking of all the changes with the Master Gardener program, I know we will have some frustrations, but in the end it will all fall into place. As Mike Maddox said, "There will be ups and downs, but just 'stick with it'."



I am looking forward to working with all our members so we can 'stick with it', as we tackle all the changes and adjust to the new paradigm of the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program. As they update the program, the Online Reporting System (ORS) will be down until January 9th and we will be unable to record volunteer or education hours until after February 1st. A new requirement will be to accept the Terms and Conditions as well as complete the Onboarding Lite (worth 5 education hours) prior to doing any volunteering, which will be avail-

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able after January 10th.

One of the biggest change is with our clients and projects. As MGVs we will now be volunteering for the client organization and will need to follow their volunteer requirements. The state will be entering all of these organizations into the ORS system. Thus, when recording your volunteer time, the hours will be entered under the name of the client organization.

The state has asked us to enter the information about our clients. They are requesting the following information about the client for data entry: Name of Organization, full address including zip code, name of contact person, title of contact person, phone number and email address of contact person, and organization website address.

As a project leader, if you have entered this information with the state, great, but please let me know. If you have not yet done that, I can assist. So please contact me for assistance or with the above requested information.

[“Plant Diagnostics: A Step by Step Approach to Identifying Plant Problems.”](#)
[This is an online course opportunity for education in CANVAS starting February 1, 2022. Janell Wehr is offering to pay the \\$49 registration fee for anyone who provides one on one education to answer horticulture questions for the public. I am encouraging all members to consider this course, which is online over 2 months from February 1st to March 31st. This is a time when we can't work in our gardens anyway. If interested, contact Janell Wehr at \[janell.wehr@wisc.edu\]\(mailto:janell.wehr@wisc.edu\).](#)

Past Members: members who left our organization over the past 5 years were sent a letter to inform them of the changes and to welcome them to rejoin our organization. In the most recent Volunteer Vibe emailed on Thursday, December 23rd, the state outlined how a person can reenter the Master Gardener Program. If you know of anyone who is in this category, please encourage them to contact myself or Janell Wehr of their interest to rejoin or if any questions.

Other opportunities and changes that all of us, our members and board will need to consider:

Strategic Planning – marketing, education, and how to maintain and grow our membership.

Logo – development of a new logo.

Find meeting space that meets needs of all members – both north and south.

Facilitate meetings face to face with Zoom capability.

Frequency of newsletter – should it be monthly?

Replace Secretary position on board

2022 will be an exciting and challenging year. I look forward to working with all the members as we move forward.

Blessings to you all

Sue Wilford

Membership Meeting Minutes—November

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting
Sue Wilford – Canvas and Janell Wehr– MG Program Changes
November 16, 2021 -- 18 members present and Janell Wehr, Horticulture Advisor

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by Ruth Cline, President. Welcome back to Jim and Diane Nickel.

Minutes from October 26, 2021: Lynn Bushmaker moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Judy Miller, motion carried.

Financial Report: Expenses and income shared by Barb Herreid. Peg Harvey moved to accept financial report; seconded by Bea Kohl, motion carried. Deadline for submitting vouchers is December 1, 2021.

WIMGA Report – Micky Erickson explained difference between WIMGA and State Extension Office. With MG program changes:

Don't need Criminal Background Check and Mandatory Reporting unless the organization MG volunteers at required them.

State Office no longer provides liability for MGCV, unless working as a volunteer at the extension office (diagnostics). WCMGV board will be evaluating our liability coverage. Liability coverage will now be under the not-for-profit organization where the MG volunteers.

To maintain certification as a MGCV, must complete 24 volunteer hours and 10 hours of continuing education. If have less than required hours, will retain MGCV status, just not 'certified'. State is developing criteria for when a MGCV may be dismissed from the program, for lack of volunteer hours.

WIMGA newsletter is now being emailed directly to each MGCV every 2 months. A reminder to add news@wimga.org to contact list. Check 'spam' or 'promotions' folder if not receiving newsletter.

Annual meeting will be conducted virtual. Email was sent out to register for meeting. Thursday, December 2nd 6:30-8:30pm. Micky Erickson will check if meeting is going to be recorded for viewing, if unable to attend virtual meeting.

Elections: The following were elected by unanimous vote of 18 for and 0 opposed to the following board positions:

President – Sue Wilford

Vice President – Karleen Remington

North Director – Joy Mader

South Director – Bea Kohl

Treasurer – Barb Herreid

Secretary - vacant

At January Board Meeting, board will discuss handling vacant secretary position.

Next Meeting: March 2022 – date, time and place to be determined.

Motion to adjourn at 6:30 pm by Peg Harvey; seconded by Bea Kohl. Motion carried.

Recognition with gift for Donna Streiff for her years of serving on the board. She continues as Newsletter Editor.

Recognition with gift for Ruth Cline for all her years of service to the MGCV Program including Board President for 6 years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Wilford, Secretary

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

If you are expecting an email relating to MGCV 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.

To make sure your WIMGA newsletter and other possible correspondence does not go to your Spam folder, **add the following contact to your email contacts list:** news@wimga.org

Educational Opportunities

Looking for educational programs to fulfill your CE hours? Just want to increase your knowledge? Learn something interesting? Here are some webinars you can take!

UW-Extension Programs

Winter 2022 Green Thumb Garden Series-Online For new gardeners or just to refresh your knowledge on basic gardening Fee: \$90 for series or \$12 per session

Nine programs on Mondays from Jan. 10 to March 21 6-8pm

Jan. 10 Seed Starting

Jan. 24 Intro to Vegetable Garden Crops and Specialized Gardening Techniques

Jan. 31 Vegetable Garden Planning and Organic Techniques

Feb. 7 Vegetable Diseases

Feb. 21 Composting Techniques for the Vegetable Garden

Feb. 28 Cover Crops

Mar. 7 Weed Management in Vegetable Gardens

Mar. 14 Vegetable Insects

Mar. 21 Seed Saving and Harvesting/Storage

For more details on the classes and to register go to: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/winter-2022-vegetable-gardening-series-online/>

Check the Horticulture website for more classes as they are added each month at:

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

Plant Diagnostics class You should have received info from Chris Grimes about the opportunity to enroll in this class. Refer to her December 20th email for more details.

WPT Garden and Landscape Expo Feb. 11-13 Madison For details go to :

[Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo \(wigardenexpo.com\)](http://wisconsin.gardenexpo.com)

Marshfield Library Garden Guru Series 3rd Mon. of the month at 6pm No cost

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Jan. 17 Barb Herreid will present Holland's Bulb Industry

Feb.21 Seed Starting and Winter Sowing

Plants Plus articles on the Canvas webpage. [University of Wisconsin-Madison Login](#)

Educational opportunities continued on the bottom of page 5

Seeds for Winter Sowing

Winter Sowing Time is Here!!

Now that the holidays are over and the snow is piling up, it's time to start winter sowing of native plants. Please refer to the video recorded at the October meeting or the how-to article in the September -October WCMGV newsletter. Below is a list of seeds from native plants that I have collected last summer. If you would like to try to grow some of these, let me know by email and I will send them to you. We had many requests for more shade plants last fall so you might want to try starting more of those. The plants listed are for full sun unless noted. F=Full Sun P=Part Sun S=Shade

If you want more info about the plants, such as plant size, bloom time, preferred soil type or preferred soil moisture level go to the Prairie Nursery or Prairie Moon websites. If you want to start more than a few plants for your own garden, you can order packets of seeds for \$3 each (a really good deal) from Prairie Moon. I included a few of those in the list that I ordered this fall. Contact me at: streiffonclay@tds.net

Aruncus (goat's beard) (P to S)	Tall Blue Larkspur (P)
New England Aster (F to P)	Leadplant
Big Leaf Aster (P to S)	Liatris (F to P)
Calico Aster (P to S)	Red Lobelia (F to P)
Hairy Beardtongue (F to P)	Blue Lobelia (F to P)
Large-Flowered Beardtongue (F to P)	Wild Lupine (F to P)
Showy Beardtongue (F to P)	Purple Poppy Mallow
Blackeyed Susan (F to P)	Monkeyflower
Boneset	Pink Monarda (native) (F to P)
Bottle Gentian	Smooth Penstemon
Butterfly Weed (orange)	Quinine
Purple Prairie Clover	River Oats
Tall Coneflower	Royal Catchfly
Purple Coneflower	Shrubby St. John's Wort (F to P)
Culver's Root (F to S)	Sweet Everlasting
Cream Gentian (F to P)	Switchgrass
Wild Geranium (F to S)	Pink Turtlehead
Golden Alexander	White Turtlehead (F to P)
Zigzag Goldenrod (F to P)	Hoary Vervain
Anise Hyssop (F to P)	Downy Wood Mint (F to P)
Ironweed	White Yarrow
Joe Pye Weed (F to P)	

Educational Opportunities . . .

Garden Visions Jan. 29 \$5 for a virtual morning program. See the website for program information:

[Garden Visions 2022 Virtual Event - Conferences, Seminars, and Workshops | Northcentral Technical College \(ntc.edu\)](#) or check Chris's email from Dec. 16.

Olbrich Gardens 5 classes by webinar, one each month, January thru May \$15 per session or \$60 for the series Topic is Reimagining Beauty and focuses on gardening with more than beauty in mind. For more info and to register: [Classes & Workshops - Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#)

December 6 Update from the MGV Program Office

Updates to the Master Gardener Program

On 11/09/2021 we provided [a video update](#) regarding the updates to the program. Please watch the video if you have not done so. This is the link:

[MG QA 2021 - YouTube](#) (Ctrl+click) or

Below are responses to some other common questions. If you have questions, please submit using the link at the end of this article. Please read all the way to the bottom! Lots of important information in this one.

Updates to Status Levels

In the video update we introduced changes to our status (participation) levels within the Extension Master Gardener Program. On pages 9 and 10 you will find explanations to the new participation levels and hours requirements starting in 2022.

Answers to Some More Questions from MGVs

Here are responses to the additional questions that you submitted. (They do read them.)

Do I need to take Onboarding-lite in 2022?

Yes

Do I need to take Onboarding-lite again if I took it in 2021?

- Yes
- Due to significant updates to the program and Onboarding, it will be a requirement of existing members to complete the 2022 Onboarding-lite course. A no-cost version will be available in the Canvas Classroom and will count towards continuing education for Master Gardeners who are currently in the program. You can claim 5 hours of continuing education. We estimate that it may take you less time than this. You are required to complete 2022 Onboarding-lite before you start volunteering. It will be a requirement of the terms and conditions in 2022.

Will we notify Associations of individuals who participated in Foundations in Horticulture or Onboarding?

- No
- The Extension Master Gardener Program does not keep a list of Associations and their contact information. Participants of Onboarding will be provided information about Associations and will be encouraged to visit the WIMGA website to learn more about associations in their area. Please make sure your association information is updated on the WIMGA website. Your current information can be found at <https://www.wimga.org/regional-master-gardener-organization>.

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What is an appropriate organization to volunteer with?

- You must first be a volunteer of the organization for your volunteer service to count.

December 6 Update from the MGV Program Office

- **In alignment with federal and state nondiscrimination laws and policies, the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program shall only accept volunteer service hours at locations and with organizations that do not engage in discriminatory practices.**
 - The University of Wisconsin–Madison, Division of Extension, is committed to providing equal opportunity and equal access in all its programs and services. As a recipient of federal funding, Extension complies with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws and policies. This includes discrimination based on:
 - ✦ age
 - ✦ ancestry
 - ✦ color
 - ✦ creed
 - ✦ disability
 - ✦ national origin
 - ✦ race
 - ✦ retaliation for making a complaint of discrimination, or taking part in an investigation relating to discrimination, or opposing discrimination
 - ✦ sex
 - ✦ sexual orientation
 - ✦ Also covered is any other nondiscrimination category that may be subsequently added, even if not included in the above list, as a result of federal or State of Wisconsin court, legislative, or regulatory action, or action taken by University of Wisconsin System. or the university.
 - ✦ Organizations include but are not limited to botanical gardens, environmental centers, municipalities, not-for-profits, hospitals, schools, places of worship, local Master Gardener associations, and more.
 - ✦ Private businesses and for-profit organizations continue to be inappropriate organizations where your volunteer time cannot count

More information provided in Onboarding (or Onboarding-lite).

Are Associations considered an appropriate organization?

If they meet the criteria above.

How will organizations be approved?

- There is no formal approval process
- You will need to use the criteria provided above and in Onboarding (or Onboarding-lite) to determine if the organization you are volunteering for is appropriate
- See question “How will I enter my hours in ORS?”

More information provided in Onboarding (or Onboarding-lite).

What activities are allowed to be counted while volunteering for an appropriate organization?

- Gardening activities and horticulture education will continue to be appropriate activities. More information will be provided in Onboarding (or Onboarding-lite).

December 6 Update from the MGV Program Office

How will I enter my hours in ORS?

- Master Gardeners record their time in the ORS by organization and activity, not by project. We are moving away from “projects” to organizations. **The ORS will not list projects in 2022.** The ORS will be restructured to accommodate this
- When you are entering your hours into the ORS if you do not see your organization listed, you will need to “ask for a new organization to be added”, at which point you will be prompted for contact information about the organization. It will be reviewed by staff before it is entered into the ORS.
- We need your help in populating the ORS with organizations.

Please fill out the form to have organizations you anticipate volunteering with in 2022 entered into ORS. See page 11 for how to submit your organization.

How are projects led in the future?

- We are moving away from “projects” to organizations. **The ORS will not list projects in 2022.**
- Starting January 1, 2022, volunteer service is conducted through other organizations. It will be up to the organization which you volunteer for to determine who may be overseeing the activities.
- Please remember that you must follow the requirements of the organization you choose to volunteer for. This may include behavior agreements, assumptions of risk, and other conditions of service for those organizations.

More information will be provided in Onboarding (or Onboarding-lite).

Will I be limited to where I can volunteer in the state?

You can count your volunteer service throughout the state as long as the organization and activity meet the requirements in Onboarding (or Onboarding-lite). You now have opportunities to volunteer across the state. We no longer require you to be connected to a county.

Do I need to complete annual enrollment?

There will be no Annual Enrollment Period like in previous years, however we do have a bit of homework for you in early 2022.

What do I need to do in 2022?

- Accept new Terms and Conditions (this includes the Code of Ethics) for 2022. This will be conducted through the ORS. We will notify you through email when it is available. Please make sure your information is updated in the ORS
- Complete the updated Onboarding-lite 2022. This will be in our Canvas Classroom. We will notify you by email when the updated version is available.
- The above items must be completed before you conduct any volunteer hours you are going to count toward the program.

Make sure you are a volunteer of the organization where you want your hours to count.

Participation Update

Master Gardener Participation Levels for 2022

At a statewide level the policy defines:

Different levels of participation in the Extension Master Gardener Program

When you are removed from the program

How you can return to the program

Participation Level	Criteria	Notes
Certified	<p>You report BOTH a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service and a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline.</p> <p>You agree to terms and conditions.**</p>	<p>You are active in the program and contribute the minimum # of hours in both volunteer service and continuing education.</p> <p>You are Certified the following year.</p> <p>You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.)</p> <p>You are eligible for awards and recognition (TBD)*</p>
Active	<p>You report less than the minimum hours of volunteer service (24) or continuing education (10), and report at least 1 hour of volunteer service and 1 hour of continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline.</p> <p>You agree to terms and conditions.**</p>	<p>You are Active in the program, contributing less than the minimum # of hours in both volunteer service (24) and continuing education (10), but reporting a minimum of 1 hour in each.</p> <p>You are uncertified for the following year.</p> <p>You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.)</p> <p>You may not be eligible for some awards (TBD)*.</p>
Inactive	<p>You report less than 1 hour in either volunteer service or continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline.</p> <p>You agree to terms and conditions.**</p>	<p>You are Inactive for the following year.</p> <p>You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.)</p> <p>You are ineligible for awards and recognition.</p>
Deactivated	<p>You report two consecutive years of less than 1 hour in either volunteer service or continuing education into the ORS by the December 31 deadline.</p>	<p>Beginning of year 3, you are removed from the Extension Master Gardener Program.</p> <p>You are removed from the email list and your ORS & Canvas account is deactivated.</p> <p>You are no longer affiliated with the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program and may not use the term "Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener."</p> <p>You may re-apply for admission according to the policy.</p>
Honored	<p>You complete 10 years* OR 1000 hours of service to the Extension Master Gardener Program in Wisconsin as recorded into the ORS AND list significant accomplishments to the local or statewide program. This should include leadership, contributions to projects, or support to other volunteers and Extension staff.</p> <p>You agree to terms and conditions.**</p>	<p>You complete the application. (Applications will be accepted only from November 1 through December 31, with decisions awarded before March 31.)</p> <p>Criteria is subject to change in the future.</p> <p>You are connected to program resources (i.e. Canvas, ORS, emails, etc.)</p>

*Contingent on new awards and recognition system.

** Terms and conditions include the Code of Ethics. The Master Gardener Program reserves the right to update these as necessary.

Participation Update

To return to the Master Gardener Program:

Once Deactivated, you have up to 5 years since last being Active/Certified to return to the program (with the requirement of completing Onboarding-lite (no exam, no fee).

After 5 years of absence, you must re-enroll and complete Onboarding (take exam and pay fee).

You will return with a participation level of Inactive. The hours you report into the ORS by December 31 will determine your participation level for the following year.

Example: *VS - Volunteer Service hours, CE - Continuing Education hours

Master Gardener	Year 1 (start) (VS, CE)*	Year 2 (VS, CE)	Year 3 (VS, CE)	Year 4 (VS, CE)	Year 5 (VS, CE)	Year 6 (VS, CE)	Year 7 (VS, CE)	Year 8 (VS, CE)
Ann	30, 12	35, 10	42, 12	25, 11	45, 20	26, 12	55, 10	25, 22
Bob	62, 10	33, 8	0,0	25, 10	34, 12	24, 6	18, 4	3, 5
Chris	8, 4	9, 2	0,1	0,0	X		Y	Z
Dan (Honored)	26, 12	40, 10	2, 5 *	0, 0	0, 2	0, 0	5, 2	0, 0

Hours reported in a year affect the participation designation for the following year.

Ann, Bob, and Chris all join the MG program in year 1 and are initially Inactive in the program.

Ann is active in the program every year. She reports the minimum requirements each year and is Certified for the following year across all years.

Bob has variable activity in the program. He failed to report the minimums in year 3, thus became Inactive in year 4, and returned to Certified status in year 5 and 6. In year 7, 8, 9 he returns to Active status for reporting less than the minimums but reporting at least 1 hour of volunteer service and 1 hour of continuing education.

Chris is Active in years 2, 3 due to reporting less than the minimums in the prior years. Chris reports no hours in both years 3 and 4. Chris's account is deactivated at the beginning of year 5 (X). Chris has 5 years since last reporting (Active) to return to the program; he must contact the MG program to reactivate his accounts and report hours by the end of year 7 (Y) to return to program with only being required to complete Onboarding-lite; if he contacts the MG program in year 8 (Z) he must again enroll in Onboarding and pass the exam to return to the program.

Dan applied for Honored Status in year 3 for completing 10+ years in the program and significant accomplishments. He received this status and may continue in the program reporting no hours in perpetuity. However, any hours he does we ask that those be reported. Dan will still must accomplish other terms of the Program such as Code of Ethics and accepting any new terms and conditions.

Share your comments and questions

We continue to collect your questions and comments. Please use the submit button, to let us know what you're thinking. (CTRL + click)

[Submit Question or Comment](#)

December 20 Update from the MGV Program Office

Updates to the Master Gardener Program

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we update the Master Gardener Program. All past updates can now be found at the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program website. Below you will find new updates and our responses to your questions and comments since our last communication.

Online Reporting System Updates

- Please make sure all your contact information is up to date to make sure you receive timely communications.
- **You need to enter all your hours for 2021 into the ORS by midnight December 31, 2021.** No hours can be entered or accepted after this time.
- **The ORS will be completely offline from January 1 to 9.**
- On January 10, Master Gardeners will get limited access to the ORS to accept the 2022 terms and conditions of the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program. Due to significant updates to the program, you are required to accept Terms and Conditions before you start volunteering.
 - Terms and conditions will be available to read in both Onboarding-lite and on the website in the new year.
 - Please take the time to read. They will be similar to the volunteer agreements we used in the past.

January 10 to February 1 the ORS will be unavailable to enter hours. The Program needs time to transition the ORS to a new format. It will be available to enter hours around Feb. 1. You will be notified when it is available. In the meantime, please keep track of your hours for January to be entered at a later date.

Adding Organizations to ORS

A major update to the ORS is our switch to listing the organizations in which you volunteer at. To do this, we need your help in adding these organizations to the system. You may submit an organization through the link below. This will help us rebuild the ORS in January. You will also have opportunities to submit organizations later on, too.

(CTRL+ click to follow the link)

[Submit Organization](#)

2022 Onboarding-Lite

- It will be available the first week of January 2022 in Canvas. You will be notified when it is available.
 - Due to significant updates to the program, you are required to complete 2022 Onboarding-lite before you start volunteering. It will be a requirement of the terms and conditions in 2022. You can claim 5 hours of continuing education. We estimate that it may take you less time than this.
- Onboarding-lite is similar to the Onboarding Course except the fee, the exam and ORS account creation are removed from the course.

Honored Status Clarification

- Honored level is one of five levels your participation can be classified as. You cannot be classified at more than one level. e.g. Honored and certified.
- “Emeritus” status is a local level designation. The Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener developed Honored status to recognize long serving members with significant accomplishments. Those with an Emeritus designation will need to apply for Honored within the program.

Application for Honored can be found here, <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/toolbox/> Applications taken Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 only each year.

Criminal Background Checks Clarification

We encourage everyone to review the Q & A video. <https://t.e2ma.net/webview/e4ksvd/4afea357d2e697a0b6020c1e2da26e82>

Master Gardeners must follow the requirements of the organization they choose to volunteer for. This may include a CBC through that organization.

Can the Foundations in Horticulture Class be audited?

No. At this time auditing is not an option.

How do individuals reenter the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener program?

For individuals who have stepped away from the program recently and who wish to return, here is our guidance for 2022:

- Individuals who have reported hours in the last 5 years (2017-present) may return to the Master Gardener Program anytime on or after January 1, 2022. They will be required to complete Onboarding-Lite (no exam, no registration fee) in the Canvas Classroom. The individual must contact the Master Gardener Program during 2022. Volunteer hours conducted prior to re-activation are not eligible for reporting.
- Individuals who have NOT reported hours in the last 5 years (2016 and before) are required to register for Onboarding (includes an exam, registration fee) in order to re-enter the Master Gardener Program. Registration begins December 2021 and closes March 15, 2022. The course opens January 1, 2022, and must be completed by March 31, 2022. All individuals will return with a participation level of Inactive. The hours reported into the ORS by December 31 will determine your participation level for the following year.

How do new individuals enter the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener program?

This process is on our website under Getting Started <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/get-started/>

As the program moves to the new format, if you have more questions, please submit to the program office using the link to the right. (CTRL+click to access link)

[Submit Question or Comment](#)

Calendar Listings

We are starting a new feature in the newsletter. A calendar listing of upcoming dates that will hopefully help you plan ahead. If you have upcoming committee meetings or work days planned, drop a note to the editor so it can be included in the calendar. This may become more important if we share the load by helping each other out in the new year during peak times.

Important Upcoming Dates—Add to your calendars

Jan. 4+ Complete 2022 Onboarding Lite on Canvas to remain a member of the of the UW-Master Gardener organization for 2022 and before doing any volunteering.

Submit the name of your organization using the form on page 9 so it is included in the new ORS for recording your hours.

Check with the organization you intend to volunteer for to find out how you become a member and what their requirements are for you to volunteer with them.

Start winter sowing now for the plant sale. Also consider growing houseplants and planning for starting extra plants for a possible spring plant sale.

Jan. 10 ORS is open to complete and accept the 2022 terms and conditions of the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program. Due to significant updates to the program, you are required to accept Terms and Conditions before you start volunteering.

Jan. 11 Project Authorization Committee 1-3pm in Safety Conference Room (across from the Extension Office in Courthouse in Wis Rapids) *Face to face unless weather is bad, then via Zoom Watch emails for updates.

Jan. 14 Audit Committee 10am Courthouse Room TBD Call Barb H.

Jan. 18 Finance Committee 1-3pm in Room 114 at Courthouse in Wis Rapids. *

Jan. 20 Board Meeting 1-3pm in Room 114 at Courthouse in WI Rapids and Zoom *

Mar. 9 Adams County HCE invitation to hear Neil Diboll of Prairie Nursery speak on growing prairie flowers in dry sandy soil. More details later.

Master Gardener Office Personnel Changes

Mike Maddox moves to new position

Dear Master Gardeners,

After nearly 10 years leading the Master Gardener Program, on January 1, 2022, I will step away from leadership of the Program. I thank you all for this opportunity and the professional and personal growth that occurred because of it. I am moving into a new role as a State-level Extension Horticulture Outreach Specialist and I look forward to engaging with you through future educational programs in my new role. Over the past ten years, I've missed teaching and instructing and this role allows for more of this.

Kimberly Miller continues as the program coordinator. Jay Dampier, the Extension Horticulture Program Manager, assumes the administrative and leadership responsibilities of the program. Please use wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu to contact them.

Cheers and happy holiday!

Mike

Amy Freidig has taken a different position within Extension as a statewide outreach specialist with the Horticulture Program. This was effective October 2021. She is still connected with the Master Gardener Program through her work supporting educational programming for Master Gardeners. If you previously communicated with Amy for program-specific items, please direct your questions to wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu.



Help Wanted

The **Publicity Director** 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 this position. Our organization needs good communication within and outside to the community to be successful. The possibility exists for sharing the duties for this positions so find a partner and give it a try.

Secretary position is open for 2022. The secretary is part of the BOD and records minutes for the Board and the membership meetings, sends the membership minutes to the newsletter editor and reviews and updates WCMGV bylaws, standards and forms as needed. Training for this position is available. **This is an important position to keep members informed of membership news.**

Program Committee for 2022. 2 or 3 members needed. Responsibilities include: Sharing the planning, coordinating and follow-through for monthly programs. No previous experience needed; program suggestions have been submitted by members; "how-to" guidance provided. Planning session(s) can be done via Zoom. Contact Karleen at karleenbobremington@gmail.com or 715.387.1863. **This committee is necessary to have informative educational opportunities at our meetings.**

All positions descriptions are listed on the WCMGV website in "Members Only" section.

January Garden Guide

- Before ordering vegetable seeds, check last year's seed for viability by placing seeds between moist paper towels for several days.
- Don't use seeds with poor germination rates; seedlings may be more prone to insect and disease problems.
- Order catalogues from seed companies you've been meaning to try.
- To keep your houseplants growing evenly, give the containers a half turn every two days.
- Inspect gladiolus corms, dahlia tubers, begonia tubers and other fleshy rooted plants for rot and desiccation.
- Continue to inspect stored vegetables.
- If you have not done so already, clean garden tools for winter storage.
- Make a list of new tools you will need or want.
- Sharpen garden tools.
- Give houseplants a monthly shower with tepid water.
- Check young trees and shrubs for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent rodent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- After a snow, pack snow tightly around the trunks. Apply water to form an ice barrier to rodent damage.
- Avoid salt damage to landscape plants by using plant friendly alternatives like grit, sand or kitty litter.
- Remember salt is ineffective at low temperatures.
- Try to use less salt, when necessary, by shoveling the snow off walks and drives before adding salt. Use only enough to be effective.
- Recycle your Christmas tree by using it for mulch or as a shelter for birds.
- Keep bird feeders clean and stocked. Provide a water source if possible.
- Start your containers for winter sowing of perennials and native seeds.
- Evaluate your winter landscape. Can you add plants or hardscaping for a more interesting winter landscape next year?
- Water evergreens if ground is not frozen. Protect recent transplants from the wind with barriers or a desiccant preventative.



February Garden Guide

Taken from Stevens Point Master Gardener Newsletter; December 2012.

- Inspect gladiolus corms, dahlia tubers, begonia tubers and other fleshy rooted plants for rot and desiccation.
- Continue to inspect stored vegetables.
- To keep your houseplants growing evenly, give the containers a half turn every two days.
- Start seed for impatiens, vinca, pansies, geranium and begonias in mid month.
- Check for over wintering fire blight cankers on susceptible varieties of apples and pears; remove by pruning.
- Spray dormant oil to control scale and other over wintering pests. Spray on any day above 40 degrees F and when forecast temperatures are to remain above freezing for 24 hours. This may be done until buds swell.
- Prune dormant trees and summer flowering shrubs. Don't prune spring flowering shrubs until after they have flowered.
- When forced bulbs have bloomed and tops have dried, store and then plant in garden in fall.
- Prune roses, fruit trees, and bramble fruits.
- Give houseplants a monthly shower with tepid water.
- Check young trees and shrubs for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent rodent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Try growing some perennials from seed.
- Start seeds for leeks and onions.
- Use a sterile soil-less medium for starting seeds to avoid dampening off.
- Continue to winter sow this month.



2022 WCMGV Board of Directors

President—Sue Wilford

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Vice President—Karleen Remington

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715-387-1863

Secretary—OPEN

Treasurer—Barb Herreid

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WIMGA Rep—Michaeleen Erikson

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Wood County Extension Horticultural Agent—Janell Wehr

janell.wehr@wisc.edu

Future Article Submission

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 25th of the month to: streiffonclay@tds.net

OPEN POSITIONS

Secretary

Public Relations Chair

Program Committee member

Wisconsin Master Gardeners

Website: [http://](http://wimastergardener.org)

wimastergardener.org

Wood County Extension Website:

<http://wood.uwex.edu>

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

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

WIMGA Website: www.wimga.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

Open Positions Please seriously consider one of the open positions, Public Relations Chair, Secretary 2022, or as a member of the Program Committee. PR Chair position can be shared between two or more people if you do not want to go it alone. Training for both PR and Secretary positions is available.

Plant Sales 2022 Winter Sowing Start your seeds in January for this year. See the info in the Sept.-Oct. newsletter about winter sowing, or the recording on the WCMGV website in the “Members Only” section.

Submit your organizations for the new ORS.

Agree to Terms and Conditions before beginning volunteering.

Check with your Volunteer Organization 1)What are its requirements and 2) sign up as a volunteer