

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

November-December 2021

What's New for 2022 Seed Exchange What is Canvas and Why I Need to Know

WCMGV General Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
6 PM at MARS in Marshfield

Our final meeting of the year will be at MARS on November 16, 2021.....a week earlier than usual because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Election of officers for 2022 will take place and we will say thank-you to some current officers whose terms have ended.

Barb Herreid, our treasurer, will collect any completed, un-mailed membership renewals that you bring with you. If you have questions about the revised form, get them answered before sealing the envelope and handing it in.

Sue Wilford will present a program guiding us through **CANVAS**, the new MG website that presents information, guidance and continuing education opportunities.

Janell will answer questions concerning the recent email (Oct.11) and video (Nov. 9) from Madison that relaxes some of the requirements and rules that have recently been a part of our MG lives. We anticipate a little more independence as a local organization. See page 7-8.

Remember to bring your seeds to share in **sealed** containers to avoid a mess. Please label with common and Latin name if known.

MARS still requires masks inside the building.

We look forward to seeing you one last time before the cold weather sets in..



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Membership Meeting Minutes—September

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting
Janell Wehr – Open Discussion on Future of WCMGV
September 28, 2021 -- 11 members present and Janell Wehr Horticulture Advisor

Meeting called to order at 6:17pm by Ruth Cline, President.

Minutes from August 24, 2021: Barb Herreid moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Bea Kohl, motion carried.

Financial Report: Expenses and income shared by Barb Herreid. Chris Grimes moved to accept financial report; seconded by Karleen Remington, motion carried. Fall plant sale was a great success with a THANK YOU to Jill Becker, Donna Streiff, Joyce Fischer, Bea Kohl, and Karleen Remington. Profit around \$2500, about \$1000 more than the last fall plant sale in 2019.

Extension Report:

Training: Foundations in Horticulture going on currently (September to December) with Onboarding to follow January to March. Janell Wehr will conduct an additional onsite training for less money in 2022. MGJV Board will discuss timing of the training and if can allow those trained to work under a certified MGJV before completing the Onboarding process which is only offered January to March each year. Current members can take Onboarding Lite for 10 educational hours up to December 31st. Members encouraged to get into Canvas with Net ID as other documents from the state are located there. If issues, contact Janell Wehr.

Rachel Whitehair, Extension Natural Resource Educator, is organizing a ‘Science by the River’ event on October 23rd. Asking if any MGJV would like to set up an educational booth, with focus on pollinators.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project leaders provided copies of the self-evaluation and project approval forms to be submitted by October 1st, with a grace period extended to October 15th.

Member input with open discussion about the future of WCMGV: Facilitated by Janell Wehr. There has been a decline in membership and limited fund raising abilities. Current membership is 39 with only one fund raiser in the past two years. With less MGJV, the garden walk in 2022 is on hold. Need to discuss the priorities of the organization and what resources do we need to meet these priorities? It is a tough situation. Where do we put our energy and resources?

Any decisions on the future of WCMGV needs to be based on our Mission statement which is:

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.

Our mission/priorities should be education and our sub mission/priorities should be projects and fund raisers. Discussed that these have been reversed and our main mission/priority has been projects with our sub mission being education. How do we turn this around to make education our main mission in line with our mission statement?

Results of surveys sent out to Project Leaders shared

Do we have enough volunteers to support our current projects?

Current number	Number needed	Total still needed
1	3	-2
7	14	-7
2	?	
0	?	
3	8	-5
3	3	--
1	5	-4
1	?	
4	?	
2	8	-6
2	?	
Additional MGJV needed for projects # 24		

Funding shared by project owner?

Number of projects	% funded by client
3	100%
4	0%
1	25%
1	50%
1	75%

Question asked on how WCMGV compares to other organizations across the state. Janell Wehr shared that our organization is doing very well and most organizations across the state are facing similar issues with a decrease in membership. Other Horticulture advisors across the state are also offering a reduced price, in person horticulture training.

The state is evaluating the MG organization and their directive will be coming out soon. Janell Wehr indicates the state will be giving the local organizations more control.

Suggested to add the following to the “Dues/Renewal Form.” “Would you be willing to help at other projects, during peak workloads?” Suggestion to implement ‘Double Hours’ for high peak work loads.

Chris Grimes summarized what ‘joys’ we experience as MG: Why do we do what we do? Why are we MG?

- Providing beautification gardens in our communities
- Sharing experiences and sharing horticulture knowledge with others
- Spending time with other gardeners for the love of gardening
- Educating ourselves, ongoing adult learning

Discussed various ways education can be provided to the public, not just speaker/classroom style. State will be providing an online course in 2022 on diagnosing horticulture issues. Janell Wehr will offer education on how to handle questions from the public when hosting a booth, such as Ask a Master Gardener.

Board has established a subcommittee to create guidelines to evaluate the projects. These guidelines will be approved by the Board in October and used by the Project Authorization Committee in January to evaluate all projects.

Some options to consider when evaluating projects:

- Current MG have signed up to the project - is there enough volunteers.
- Encourage Members to sign up only for the projects they intend to work on.
- Making sure client is aware of their commitment and has signed project proposal form.
- Only consider staying with project if client is willing to provide some funding.
- Ask client if there are employees or community members to help with the work load
- Consider if there are other volunteers who are willing to help during peak work load times.
- Have a conversation with the project leader of a project that maybe dropped. Are there other community volunteers who support this project? Is their funding from other sources?

Next Steps:

- Board sub-committee will establish guidelines approved by the board to evaluate projects.
- Members will submit ‘renewal/dues’ form by the November membership meeting.
- Project leaders will be submitting request forms by October 15th to be reviewed by the Project Authorization Committee.
- Project Leaders can recruit other MG to help at their project.
- Project evaluated will fall into two categories
 - Approved to continue
 - Questionable – Explore all avenues to evaluate if project needs to be dropped, being respectful and mindful of the many years of dedication volunteers have given to this project.
- Over time, WCMGV may be able to turn the main mission to be education and the sub mission to be funding and in ground projects.

Next Meeting: October 26, 2021 6-8pm at MARS. Speaker Donna Streiff – ‘Sowing Seeds in Winter’
Motion to adjourn at 8:02pm by Karleen Remington; seconded by Barb Herreid. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Sue Wilford, Secretary

Membership Meeting Minutes—October

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting
Donna Streiff – Winter Sowing & Seed Collection
October 26, 2021 -- 11 members present and Janell Wehr, Horticulture Advisor

Meeting called to order at 6:18 pm by Ruth Cline, President.

Minutes from September 28, 2021: Bea Kohl moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Judy Miller, motion carried.

Financial Report: Expenses and income shared by Barb Herreid. Karleen Remington moved to accept financial report; seconded by Paula Klevene, motion carried. Barb encouraged project leaders to submit vouchers (deadline is December 1, 2021) so that you can be reimbursed and she can submit report to Incurage Foundation on how the grant monies were used.

Extension Report:

State Program Office newly announced changes: Janell shared the recent positive changes to the Master Gardener Program that were announced and responded to questions. The Onboarding Light program will be available for current members to complete by December 31, 2021. She will carry the message to Madison that annual re-enrollment is seen as a barrier. One idea that was suggested during the discussion was to provide members with a calendar of upcoming events and deadlines; Jill Becker will work to develop one and submit it to Donna to include in the newsletter.

New Business/Announcements:

New WCMGV Dues Form: The new format of the dues form was introduced and an explanation of changes was shared by Board members. The form will be mailed to members not in attendance. It was emphasized to be as honest as possible when completing the survey in terms of hours that can be volunteered for 2022. The deadline for payment of dues is November 15, 2021.

Project Leader Forms: Ruth reported that she has received all of the required paperwork from the Project Leaders.

Next Meetings: All in Marshfield

November 10th, 4-6 pm MARS

November 16th, 6-8 pm at MARS.

Motion to adjourn at 7:11 pm by Barb Herreid; seconded by Bea Kohl. Motion carried.

October Educational Program: Donna Streiff – Winter Sowing & Seed Collection

In spite of technical issues, Donna presented a very informative program on how to winter sow seeds and also provided tips on collecting seeds. Members can take this training and apply it in the upcoming year to growing seeds that can be sold at our organization's plant sale(s).

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Herreid, Temporary Secretary

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.

Educational Opportunities

Have you earned your 10 hours of education for this year? Just want to increase your knowledge? Learn something interesting? Here are some free webinars you can take just by registering!!

UW-Extension Programs

Heirloom Biographies

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021, 6:30 – 7:30PM AND MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 11AM-12PM
In this interactive online program, we will hear the backstory of some of our favorite heirloom varieties, including a local favorite, the Beaver Dam pepper. After learning the cultural and economic significance these plants have served historically, we'll discuss the differences between the terms heirloom, hybrid, open pollinated and GMO.
Presenter: Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator Extension Marathon County
Cost to attend this program: FREE!

Care for Common December Plants

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021, 6:30 – 7:30PM and MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021, 11AM – 12PM
Learn how to keep a poinsettia, Christmas cactus, Norfolk Island Pine and other favorite gift plants thriving. We'll cover requirements including light, watering, fertilizer, and humidity. Also, learn tips for picking out Christmas trees and how to keep them in their best shape over the holiday season.
Class will be interactive in nature and held through Zoom, a web based meeting platform.
Presenter: Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator Extension Marathon County
Cost to attend this program: FREE!

Growing Healthy Plants: Basics in Disease Management NOVEMBER 19, 2021 12:00-1:30 PM
Brian Hudelson is the presenter. To register for this free class: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

To register for these classes and others as they become available go to UW-Madison Division of Extension's Calendar of Events link below.

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

Find articles, resources, educational events and more at UW-Madison Division of Extension's Horticulture page <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu>

Melinda Myers Programs

Melinda Myers has no webinars scheduled at the present time. To check on her appearances 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 and summer webinars that you can view until the end of the year. To view recordings, click on "On Demand" button, scroll to the webinar you want to watch, click on "Click Here" and enter the password.

Important Reminders

Important Reminder End of Year To-Do List

You do **not** have to have any Volunteer Hours for 2021 to renew your membership for 2022 **BUT** you **do have to have 10 hours of Continuing Education.** (Report on ORS by Dec. 31, 2021)

In case you have not been keeping up with announcements from the VIBE:

For all MGVs to be part of the state organization:

Every Master Gardener Volunteer has to renew their membership every year through the state portal by completing their enrollment. Just submitting dues to the treasurer is not renewing your membership as a certified Master Gardener. We had a few members who did not get this done last spring and as a result they are not recognized as active members for 2021.

For those who missed the March 31st deadline last year

To renew your membership you will need to complete your enrollment on the state website: <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/> If you have not done this or are unable to do it on a computer, contact Janell Wehr to help you get started. You CANNOT complete enrollment now but this will help you be ready to do so after Jan. 1, 2022 for next year.

For those who are current active members:

If you have enrolled for 2021, you should have a Net ID to access the Onboarding Lite program through Canvas. Completing this program can be used for 10 hours of continuing education for 2021, giving you enough hours to qualify as an active member for 2022. If you do not know your Net ID, the program will take you through steps to retrieve it. This is the link to the program:

[Introducing Canvas, Our Online Classroom – Master Gardener Program \(wisc.edu\)](#) Sue W. will give you a guided tour at our Nov. meeting.

October Update from the MGV Program Office

In case you missed the update from the MGV office here it is.

Updates to the Master Gardener Program

Extension is excited to bring you a set of updates to our Master Gardener Program that will create more opportunities for you, broaden our reach in communities, and address the great feedback we've received from you. We're announcing a new framework that is in direct response to what you've been asking for!

Before we detail what's in store, we want to thank you for the dialog you've participated in and the feedback you've provided on making our program even better. We at Extension cannot deliver on our mission of bringing University research to communities across the state without your help and your dedication. You are vital to improving our communities, and it's with that in mind that we're eager to have your help in our improvements.

Here is a brief overview of the updates that are detailed fully below

- Increased ability to volunteer where you want.
- More flexibility and reduced burden in the Master Gardener Program requirements
- Associations can operate independently

More opportunities to share your skills and knowledge



We want to make it easier for you to choose where you provide your horticulturally-related community service. With the new framework, you can choose what public organizations you'll volunteer for without having to go through an Extension project approval process. In doing this, you will be a volunteer of that organization, which will take the lead instead of Extension in coordinating and guiding your activities. As long as the volunteer service falls within our Master Gardener Program purpose you can count it toward your Master Gardener requirements.

Our hope is that this allows you to keep doing the activities you've done with as little disruption as possible while also exploring additional opportunities in your community. This will create stronger local connections and broaden our reach for both local and statewide needs.

Changing program requirements



We want to make it easier to become a Master Gardener and maintain your Master Gardener status!

First, we're eliminating the need for new Master Gardeners to obtain a criminal background check and take mandated reporter training to enter the program. Minimal conditions of service will still be required, such as a Code of Ethics agreement.

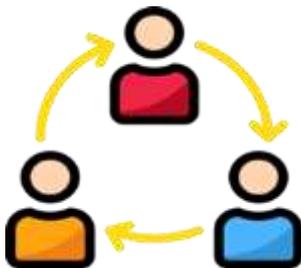
You will need to seek to understand, follow, and abide by the policies and guidelines of the organization's you volunteer for. For example, if you volunteer in an Extension office to do horticulture diagnostics, you will still need to do our criminal background check and conditions of service; similarly, if you are working in a garden at a

October Update from the MGV Program Office(cntd)

school or hospital, that location may have their own requirements. It really depends on where you volunteer!

Second, we are changing our annual enrollment requirements. You should still strive to report 24 hours of community service and 10 hours of continuing education by December 31, annually. If you report less, you will remain in the program with no penalty, and will no longer require an exempt status. We hope this better accommodates the busy lives and schedules of our volunteers, without additional paperwork. We hope this change also makes the program more accessible to new members.

Recognizing associations' autonomy



Extension will no longer need to pursue and complete Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with associations. We were able to find a path forward without this added burden. Associations are independent of Extension and operate without the requirements of university policies and procedures. Associations may also choose how to manage their own membership.

Addressing feedback and your suggestions

We heard loud and clear that there is a real need for flexibility in terms of the Master Gardener Program, how you benefit communities, and what makes a successful volunteer. We are confident that the changes described above continue to support your love of learning while also opening up new avenues for you to try new things and flex the creative muscles we know you have.

We will begin implementing our new framework on January 1, 2022. Until then, all current procedures remain the same. As we continue to work through the details, we need your help! Please send us your thoughts and questions so we can use them to inform our future state. Please submit them here and we'll be collecting those for a video Q-and-A we'll be releasing in early November.

We will continue to provide updates and look for ways to ask for feedback as we move forward. Hold down Ctrl key and click on link below to access form

[Questions & Answer Form \(google.com\)](#)

Sincerely,

Jay Dampier
jay.dampier@wisc.edu

Mike Maddox
mike.maddox@wisc.edu

If possible listen to the video from Mike Maddox and Jay Dampier (Nov. 9) about the changes for next year before our meeting on Nov. 16. Janell will try to help us understand what it all means.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXqKHrP-dv8>

WIMGA News

Micky is our WIMGA rep and would like to share some highlighted items from their minutes.

WIMGA Face-to-Face Meeting – October 9, 2021

Vice President Hali D called the meeting to order at 10:11 am

Roll call was done using a print out of the list from Google Docs. This was also used to verify email addresses. (32 in attendance representing 25 of the 45 Associations)

Each person introduced themselves with their name, county and the numbers of years they have been a master gardener volunteer.

The minutes from the WIMGA Board Meeting of September 9, 2021 were read. A motion was made by Becky G to approve the minutes as read, and seconded by Diane T. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Byron H

The January through September 2021 was read.

The treasurer's report was approved as presented and placed on file subject to audit.

Program Office

Mike Maddox introduced Jay Dampier, the Horticulture Outreach Manager. He has held this position for three years and has been with Extension for seven years. This position is at the state level and works with county educators. A county without an educator can contribute to an educator in another county then they can use that educator. Part of Jay's position is determining what the base level is for an educator that the state can provide at a county level.

Peggy Damann is building a system for plant diagnostics that can be accessed online for areas that don't have an extension office to answer these questions.

The Horticulture Program is a new program under Extension and the Master Gardener Program will fall under this umbrella. There is work being done on who does what in order to align programs within Horticulture.

Mike Maddox mentioned that an email is to be sent out Monday, October 11 with full explanation of some changes to the program.

Master Gardener Program was following the 4-H path, but has been changed to follow one that will increase the ability to volunteer where you want and **acknowledging that associations can operate separate from extension.** This should allow for more opportunities for educational programs.

The liability will be through the organization that you are volunteering with. Since associations are no longer under extension, each association should look at getting liability coverage for those projects that are not associated to an organization. Associations should still pursue getting the non-stock corporation or 501c status.

Secura - best company to get liability insurance

West Bend is another option for liability insurance

They are eliminating need to have a criminal background check beginning with new master gardener volunteers this year. The criminal background check will still be required if you work on a project under extension like Plant Health Advisors.

There will still be a code of ethics, and the expectation that you will follow guidelines of organization to volunteer.

Annual enrollment requirements: 10 hours education, 24 volunteer hours (but not enforced)

No MOU needed, associations manage own membership

This will allow for more opportunity and flexibility.

Individual paths for each county will be discussed in the future.

Continuing Business:

WIMGA e-mail communication:

The news@wimga.org email address allows recipients to know where it is coming from. People should add this address as a contact. We will be able to send out the newsletter to all WIMGA members; set up Goggle documents for group access; and maintain a membership list that is current.

It is up to each association to print the newsletter and forward to members without email.

Annual meeting:

Scheduled for November 6, 2021 at 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at EconoLodge/Clarion in Stevens Point, WI.

There was no response for suggestions on speakers. There was a recommendation to have Mike M and Jay D to talk about the program office.

A motion was made by Janet M, seconded by Roseann M to consider having a virtual meeting this year. The issues for having it in person included weather, amount of time left before event, and travel time.

Janet M amended the motion to do the 2021 annual meeting virtually and possibly on a week-night. Motion passed with two nays.

Annual Budget Proposal:

Discussion about keeping WI MG Foundation for another year and revisit this to see if it still valid for 2023.

A motion was made by Becky G and seconded by Marilyn G to accept budget. Approved.

Break for Lunch

We broke into the districts for discussion about what we would like to have WIMGA work on in the future.

District Recommendations:

Southern

More about speaker's bureau

WIMGA annual conference - three counties are looking into having a joint one for 2023

Brainstorm speakers

Information on liability insurance

Eastern

Quarterly virtual Zoom education

Clarify WIMGA versus association versus program office

They have twice a year district WIMGA reps get together

Central

They have twice a year district WIMGA reps get together

Communication from WIMGA down is sketchy, put on website

Include Agendas and Meeting Minutes on website (to all members)

Dues and email addresses, those that do not have an email address need to have it mailed

Western/Northern

Some members expressed dismay at a lack of communication from the Program Office to WIMGA, felt that the Board should be aware of changes before they come before the whole membership

Schedule events six months in advance - meetings

Start a WIMGA scholarship instead of funding the foundation

Create a how-to video to present to everyone (additional training opportunities)

Post minutes but take out financial information

WIMGA's new executive committee

President - Marilyn G

Vice President - Hali D

Secretary - Diane K

Treasurer - Byron H

Diane T and Marilyn G reviewed committee structure.

Send out to all local reps

Honor Status - ready to apply by November 1, extension program

Adjourn

A motion was made by Diane H, and seconded by Chris K. Adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Please note the text in red on the previous page. 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

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

- Nov. 15 Local association dues and renewal form is due to Barb Herreid (or at Nov. 16 meeting)
- Nov. 16 Membership meeting MARS 6pm
- Dec. 1 Deadline to submit reimbursement forms to Barb Herreid for any projects in 2021 Earlier is even better
- Dec. 26 Jan-Feb Newsletter deadline— info to streiffonclay@tds.net
- Dec. 31 Last day for current members to complete Onboarding Lite (earn 10 CE hours for finishing)
- Dec. 31 Last day to record CE and Volunteer hours for 2021 (10 CE hours required plus any Volunteer hours you completed in 2021)
- Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 Complete online registration to remain a member of the of the UW-Master Gardener organization for 2022
- Jan. 11 Tentative Project Authorization Committee meets
- Jan. 18 Tentative Budget Committee meets
- Jan. 25 Board of Directors meeting
- 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.

New Honored Master Gardener Status

Honored Status Award Application

Volunteers in the University of Wisconsin Division of Extension Master Gardener Program may apply for the awarded Honored Status. The purpose of this status is to 1) recognize volunteers for their contributions to the program, 2) increase flexibility in annual reporting requirements, and 3) create a uniform recognition status across the state.



To qualify for this award an individual must:

- Complete 10 years OR 1000 hours of service to the Master Gardener Program *in Wisconsin* as recorded in the online reporting system.
- List significant accomplishments to the local or statewide program. This should include leadership, contributions to projects, or support to other volunteers and Extension staff.
- Complete the application, including the signature from the local Extension staff and the Master Gardener Program staff.
- Be reviewed and approved by statewide Master Gardener Program staff.
- **Applications will be accepted only from November 1 through December 31, with decisions awarded before March 31. Applications received outside of this deadline may be misplaced.**

Awardees will be recognized with:

- New name badge, with honored designation
- Reporting exemption for volunteer and continuing education activities. You may report less than the required hours for perpetuity. This includes reporting ZERO hours).
- **Note: individuals must still complete other requirements of the program, including annual enrollment, the criminal background check, etc.**

Comments

Over the decades, many local associations created their own criteria for an “emeritus” status to acknowledge the contributions of local volunteers. The emeritus criteria was not consistent across counties. And, this never was a recognized status statewide, leading to increased confusion and frustration regarding membership in the program.

In 2020, the Master Gardener Program tasked a group of volunteers to draft a proposed statewide solution. The group reviewed similar recognition strategies in other states. Ours incorporates elements of those models while meeting the requirements of our state’s program. It was named Honored Status to reduce confusion with campus based emeritus status. Applicants must have previously reported a total of 10 years of service OR a minimum of 1000 hours of service *in Wisconsin* to be eligible.

In addition, applicants must briefly list their accomplishments as a volunteer in the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program. Accomplishments may include your leadership activities, your contributions to projects, and/or your support to volunteers and Extension staff. This can include local, regional, or statewide efforts. All efforts must have occurred in Wisconsin. Your write up should be limited to 500 characters or less, which is approximately the number of characters in this paragraph.

All individuals with previously designated emeritus status at the local level must still complete the application process and meet program requirements. Individuals who are awarded Honored Status may continue to report hours only if they would like.



Help Wanted

We have a vacancies in our Communication team and are looking for 1 or more people to take over this activity. (You can also share this responsibilities with another volunteer). This positions is vital for keeping our membership informed of association activities and publicizing our events to the public.

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.

Board of Directors positions open for 2022:

President, Secretary and Director(preferably from north)

These positions are very important to the smooth transition to our new organization. If you have questions about the role descriptions, please ask a current board member. The possibility of sharing a position is also open.

November Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Finish planting spring bulbs.
- Prepare new perennial beds for spring planting. Soil will be conditioned over winter.
- With sunny conditions, paper-white narcissus planted indoors about mid November will bloom for Christmas.
- After ground freezes, mulch azaleas and rhododendrons with chopped oak leaves or pine needles. Perennial beds should also be mulched with coarse material such as marsh hay.
- Do not smother self-sowing annual beds with heavy mulch.
- Reduce watering and feeding houseplants as lower light conditions of winter approach.
- Test soil if you haven't done so recently.
- Clean window boxes and outdoor planters, fill with greens and berries or other seasonal display.
- Mulch carrots, parsnips and leeks with a foot of straw or marsh hay for winter digging. Mark rows with stakes.
- Mulch asparagus bed with chopped leaves or straw to protect crowns from frost.
- Inventory, clean, repair and coat the metal parts of garden tools with vegetable oil before storing.
- Drain gasoline from tiller.
- Harvest the last of the hardy vegetables, such as Chinese cabbage, Brussels sprouts and kale. These will continue to produce until a frost below 25 degrees F.
- Harvest vegetables to be stored indoors before ground freezes.
- Heavily water trees and shrubs before ground freezes. This helps prevent winter burn on evergreens.
- Cut back fall blooming hydrangeas, leaving one or two pairs of buds on each flower stem.
- Wrap the trunks of young shade trees and fruit trees to protect them from animal damage and sunscald.
- Make one last lawn mowing, setting blade one-half inch lower than usual. Drain gas from mowers.
- Cut to the ground any summer bearing raspberry or blackberry canes that have fruited this year.
- Dormant pruning of black, yellow and purple raspberries is done by shortening all lateral branches to 15 inches.
- Prune grapevines.
- Mulch strawberries and bramble fruits after the ground has frozen, but before the temperature falls below 15 degrees (usually late November.) Apply 2-4 inches of straw or marsh hay.



December Garden Guide

Taken from Stevens Point Master Gardener Newsletter; December 2012.

•* *Amaryllis* bulbs may be started now. If they are established bulbs in old pots, two inches of soil should be removed from the surface and replaced with a good, rich mixture.

- Make sure the pots of forcing bulbs are full of roots before moving into sunlight, and make sure they are watered adequately for the best display.
- Covering materials can be added to the perennial bed once the ground is frozen.
- If you brought in geraniums for winter color, they must be placed in a window that receives direct sunlight all day and a daytime temperature of 70 to 75 degrees is maintained. Keep in mind geraniums do not like to be over watered.
- Be sure that all garden refuse that may contain any insects or disease is disposed of in the garbage and not the compost pile.
- After each heavy snowfall, one should tramp the snow around the young fruit trees to protect them from mice, which work under the snow.
- Newly planted evergreens should have the protection of a windbreak or anti-desiccant to protect from moisture loss.
- If the ground is not frozen, newly planted evergreens should have a thorough soaking of water.
- Make sure that all bird feeding equipment is out and well stocked for the winter months.
- Remember to set out your Christmas tree when the season is over for winter protection for the birds.
- Collect the seeds from pods and seed heads gathered earlier – wrap up some to give as gifts.
- Check stored veggies – discard any with signs of spoilage.
- Continue harvesting greens from the hoop house or cold frame.
- Try growing salad greens and herbs in pots in a south-facing window.
- Take photos of your property to decide what needs changing before snow cover obscures your view.



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Future Article Submission

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

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

Dues and Renewal Form Due Nov. 15

Record Your Hours before Dec.31,2021 at [Online Reporting System – Master Gardener Program \(wisc.edu\)](#) Let a board member or Janell know if you need help

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

Complete Enrollment after Jan. 1, 2022 and before March 31, 2022

Plant Sales 2022 Winter Sowing Start your seeds after Christmas and think of other plants to propagate and flowers you can grow next year for dried arrangements