

President's Message for Feb 2022

The WCMGV board had a strategic planning meeting facilitated by Janell Wehr on February 17th. We discussed our strengths and weaknesses, what we want to stay the same, what we would like changed and how can we move our association forward. There was great emphasis on the strength of our membership. Even though we have only 32 members, we feel the commitment and dedication of those who have weathered the last 2 years is one of our greatest strengths. There was overwhelming gratitude for our current members. Thank you to all members!

By the end of the meeting, we had focused on two strategic issues, goals and interventions. Our main commitment was 'Our Members.' We also felt 'marketing/publicity' was a part of each issue/intervention. The plan would be reevaluated after one year and revised as needed.



Membership –

- Retain 90% of current membership by year end
 - Board to contact members twice a month.
- Recruit 5 new members by year end
 - Recruitment team to develop plan; including how to onboard new members into our organization
- Provide at minimum of 3 social events by year end
 - Socialization/retention team to develop plan for socialization and retention of membership.

◆ President's Message p. 1-2

◆ Plant Sales p. 3

◆ Winter Sowing p. 3

◆ Upcoming Educational Opportunities p. 4

◆ Calendar p. 8

◆ Tree Pruning Tips p. 9

◆ Want Ads p. 11

◆ February Garden Guide p. 12

◆ Final Reminders p. 15

President's Message Con't

Education/Public Value

- Identify 5 different education strategies/opportunities/methods by year end.
 - Education team to develop educational outreach plan

So we have 3 teams (Recruitment; Socialization/Retention; and Education/Public Value) which will develop plans. We are looking for interested members to help with these teams, which could only be about 1-2 meetings, not a long term commitment.

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to review Onboarding Lite 2022 in CANVAS and the recent Volunteer Vibe frequently asked questions. The board has been talking about these changes for the last few months and we have all acknowledged it is hard to get our head wrapped around the changes. We can only imagine how hard it is for the members.

Onboarding Lite was a lot of information and somewhat overwhelming to comprehend all the aspects. As we proceed into this year, we will review much of the content in both the monthly newsletter and at our monthly meetings. Our March meeting will be dedicated to an overview of all the changes and to answer questions. Contact Sue Wilford or Janell Wehr for any questions or clarification.

Janell Wehr: Janell.wehr@wisc.edu

Sue Wilford: swilford@tds.net; 715-305-6325 (text); or home phone 715 652-6129
I look forward to working with all the members as we move forward in 2022.

Blessings to you all

Sue Wilford

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. This is available now. Please make sure your information is updated in the ORS when you are there.
- **Complete the updated Onboarding-lite 2022.** This is now available on Canvas.
- 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.**

If you have other questions about the new MGv program, email Janell and/or send them to the program office by using the link.

(Control + click to follow link)

[Submit Question or Comment](#)

Plant Sale Planning for Spring and Fall

Last Call for Winter Sowing!

It is not too late to start some seeds by winter sowing. I whittled down the list to those that need less than 60 days of cold. 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. They also sell larger size seed mixes for starting native or prairie plantings for all different types of sites.

Aruncus (goat's beard) (P to S)	Blackeyed Susan (F to P)	Liatris (F to P)
New England Aster (F to P)	Boneset (F to P)	Wild Lupine (F to P)
Calico Aster (F to S)	Purple Prairie Clover (F to P)	Purple Poppy Mallow
Hairy Beardtongue (F to P)	Purple Coneflower (F to P)	Smooth Penstemon
Large-Flowered Beardtongue (F to P)	Butterfly Weed (orange)	Red Milkweed (F to P)
Showy Beardtongue (F to P)	Purple Prairie Clover (F to P)	Shrubby St. John's Wort (F to P)
Tall Bellflower (P to S)	Culver's Root (F to S)	Switchgrass (F to P)
Wild Bergemot (F to P)	Anise Hyssop (F to P)	
	Leadplant	

Spring Plant Sale May 21st

Wisconsin Rapids area

A simple plant sale will be organized for May 21st during the Port Edwards Garage Sale Day. MG member Cathy Schutz has graciously offered her driveway to be the location of the sale. We have a small planning group and will meet during February to get organized. But here's what we have in mind so you can plan to participate as you are able.

1. We encourage MG and friends of MG to plant seeds to have marketable annual flowers and vegetables for the sale.
2. We can accept divided and replanted houseplants in sterilized potting mix.
3. We can accept tender bulbs, washed, and then planted in sterilized potting mix. Starting them in late April or early May will give customers a visual of the type of plant grown.
4. Donate garden accessories in clean and good condition.
5. If you have a stash of viable seed in their original packages, we will sell the packages.
6. If you have harvested milkweed seed, this would be a good item too.

We do not propose to purchase any inventory from the wholesalers we have used in the past. We will not be offering divided perennials from our gardens because of the jumping worm infestation.

And finally, we would like to staff the "Ask a Master Gardener" booth for the day.

Stay tuned for more information as the winter progresses to Spring.

Submitted by Micky Erickson and Bea Kohl

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

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/>

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

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Mar. 14 The Importance of Using More Native Plants in Your Yard

Apr. 18 Planning and Planting Your Garden

Extension Mini-webinars Free!! To register and/or learn more: <https://bit.ly/3g0lfhF>

Mar. 2 Apple Pests

Approximately 30 Min webinars followed by Q & A

Mar. 9 Growing Strawberries in Containers

Melinda Myers Webinars

March 9, 2022

How to Plan Your Rain Garden
(webinar)

March 10, 2022

Taking Your Veggie Garden to the Next Level
(webinar)

March 15, 2022

How to Select Rain Garden Plants
(webinar)

March 16, 2022

Gardening to Attract Birds
(webinar)

March 24, 2022

All About Houseplants!
(webinar)

March 31, 2022

Growing Nutritious Herbs & Vegetables
(webinar)

April 5, 2022

Managing Water on Your Property
(webinar)

All programs at 6:30pm CST

Register at: [Upcoming appearances :: Melinda Myers](#)

There are also recorded programs: [On Demand Webinars :: Melinda Myers](#)

Dahlias
Kid and Pet Friendly House Plants
Top Plants for Rain Gardens, Water Gardens, Shoreline Gardens & Those to Avoid
Pruning Tips for Shrubs
Colorful Houseplants
Gardening for Wildlife
Small Space Gardening

Updates from the MGV Program Office

Some reminders for the new ways we are volunteering

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. It may include a background check if the organization requires it.

Please [fill out the form to have organizations you anticipate volunteering with in 2022 entered into ORS.](#)

(Control + click to follow link)

Submit Organization

The project leaders met February 22 to try to learn how this all will work. You can't just show up somewhere to work AND have it count for MGV hours unless you have notified the organization you are working for that you will be doing work at their site, and have met the requirements of that organization to be a volunteer for them. You do not have to join the organization but you have to meet any requirements they have for persons working with or for their organization.

Our March meeting at MARS in Marshfield will be devoted to this topic and other changes to the MGV program to help us all understand the new guidelines so you don't spend time working with an organization and then not have it count as hours like you assumed it would. It is very important for all members to attend either in person or via Zoom.

If you did not get the email from Jay about where to find the answers to questions about the new organization guidelines, follow this link to the Master Gardener website. You might want to bookmark this page because we will probably be referring to it often until we get used to the new rules.

[Changes to Wisconsin Master Gardener Program – Master Gardener Program](#)

From this page you can also go to the other MG pages by using the tabs in the top red area. To get to the Canvas page and Plants Plus, click on LEARN. To get to ORS, click on TOOLS. To find educational programs and webinars, click on EVENTS. Spend a little time exploring all the helpful areas on this website.

Updates from the MGV Program Office

Important Liability Changes for MGVs

(This is why you must be a volunteer of the organization you are working with)

January 2022: The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is revising the Master Gardener Program. Volunteers will be able to continue to serve their community in many of the activities through which they have historically contributed, while expanding their impact in new ways. Since Master Gardeners will no longer automatically be volunteers for the Division of Extension, it is important to review the following information regarding liability coverage: Master Gardeners are considered the volunteers of the organization for which they provide volunteer service. University liability protection is not attached to an individual's participation as a Master Gardener or the title of Extension Master Gardener. Liability protection provided by the University does not extend to volunteer service performed for any other groups or organizations with which Extension Master Gardeners may volunteer

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.

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.

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

Important Upcoming Dates—Add to your calendars

- Jan. 4+ Complete 2022 Onboarding Lite on Canvas to remain a member of the of the Master Gardener organization
- 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.
- Mar. 16 MGV Diagnostic Webinar via Zoom: 6-7:15pm (For those who are taking the online Diagnostic Course.)
- Mar.17 Board Meeting 1-3pm Room114 Courthouse
- Mar. 22 Membership Meeting: Tuesday, 6-8pm: Face to Face and via Zoom
MARS
- Apr. 26 Membership Meeting: Tuesday, 6-8pm: Face to Face and via Zoom
WR McMillan Library
- May 21 Spring Plant Sale—Wisconsin Rapids

2022 Educational Programs at Membership Meetings

Programs for our WCMGV 2022 meetings are in the making. Thanks to all who volunteered to present a program or who suggested program topics. At this point, we have confirmed the following topics/presenters:

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------------------|
| March 22 | MG Program Update/Janell and officers | MARS/Marshfield |
| April 26 | Deer Resistant Gardening/Chris Landowski | McMillan Library/WR |
| May 24 | Jumping Worms/Brad Herrick @ UW Arboretum | McMillan Library/WR |
| June 28 | Orchid Culture/Maria Edelstein | Marshfield |
| July 26 | Garden Tour Featuring Natives/Donna Streiff | Marshfield |

We continue to work on additional programming and will let you know when details are finalized. Contact Karleen Remington at karleenbobremington@gmail.com if you have questions or wish to make further suggestions.

Information from the PDDC

PLANT DISEASE POINTERS

February 2022: 'Tis the Season – A Tree Pruning Redux

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 HUDELSON



I often talk about pruning as a method for disease management. Pruning branches with canker diseases (e.g., [Nectria canker](#), [Cytospora canker](#), [golden canker](#)) can be critical in keeping diseases in check and preventing pathogen spread. Pruning healthy trees and shrubs is also important to promote proper growth, reduce the risk of structural failure during extreme weather (e.g., high winds), and, in some instances, enhance flowering.

When pruning your trees and shrubs, consider the following:

- **Match your pruning technique to the specific tree or shrub you are pruning.** Specific trees and shrubs have particular pruning needs, and you need to choose the right pruning technique for the trees and shrubs in your landscape. Check out the University of Wisconsin Garden Facts [Pruning Deciduous Trees](#), [Pruning Deciduous Shrubs](#), and [Pruning Evergreens](#) for details.
- **Prune in the winter, when possible.** From a disease standpoint, pruning in the winter is typically optimal. Disease-causing organisms and insects that carry them are not active, meaning there is less of a chance that infections will occur through pruning wounds. Are there exceptions? Absolutely! Some research indicates that pruning honeylocust in the summer can help reduce the incidence of [Nectria canker](#). Also, pruning spring-flowering shrubs in the winter reduces flowering, so pruning these plants right after bloom is a better option.



Always use the three cut method to prevent this!

- **Prune when it's dry.** If you prune during the growing season, prune when there's a stretch of several dry days. Wet weather is a better environment for disease-causing organisms to infect.
- **Prune to minimize wound size.** When removing large tree branches, be sure to prune just outside the branch collar (i.e., the slightly swollen area where the branch attaches to the trunk). This will produce a smaller wound than cutting the branch flush with the trunk. Similarly, cut smaller branches perpendicular to the long axis of the branch



(rather than at an angle). A smaller wound provides a smaller “target” that plant pathogens have to land on and infect. A smaller wound also means less time for a tree to produce protective tissue that grows over a pruning cut.

- **Avoid painting pruning cuts.** Paint wounds (and do it immediately) only when pruning oaks and elms during the growing season. This reduces the risk

of transmission of the [oak wilt](#) and [Dutch elm disease](#) fungi. Painting pruning cuts on other types of trees can slow development of the protective tissue described above.

- **Decontaminate, decontaminate, decontaminate.** Optimally, decontaminate tools between every cut. Check out my [January Plant Disease Pointers](#) for details on what to use and how long to treat. Consider using two sets of pruning tools, one that you decontaminate, while you prune with the other. If decontaminating between every cut is not feasible, decontaminate as often as possible and definitely between plants.

And with that. . . Happy pruning!!

For more information on plant diseases and their management, check out the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic website (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>) or contact PDDC staff at pddc@wisc.edu or (608) 262-2863.

Want Ads



Help Wanted

Board Secretary
Publicity Director
Program Committee

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 for the Board position is open for 2022. The secretary is part of the BOD and records minutes for the Board and reviews and updates WCMGV by-laws, 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.

March Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener Website.

March Garden Guide

- Plant tuberous rooted begonias indoors early in the month.
- Begin regular fertilization of houseplants.
- March is a good month to make cuttings of many houseplants.
- Order perennial plants and specify that they be delivered when the ground is workable.
- Start seeds of slow-growing annuals. Transfer them as appropriate in April to cold frame.
- Start bulbs of calla. They will bloom from June to August.
- Start seedlings of cabbage, celery, cauliflower, head lettuce, and parsley.
- Keep amaryllis foliage growing by watering and feeding.
- Continue to inspect stored vegetables. Anything showing signs of spoilage should be removed immediately and either used or discarded.
- Don't worry if spring-flowering bulbs are sending up green leaves. The foliage can withstand winter weather.
- March is the leanest month for wildlife, so protect shrubs and plants with wire cages or sprinkle ground with cat hair or blood meal.
- Do not remove mulch from perennials too early. Keep light covering of mulch over spring bulbs.
- Rake off last season's mulches on garden soil so it can dry and be warmed by the sun. Remove any plant residue left from last year.
- If the compost pile froze during winter, turn it now, and add fresh manure to help restart the composting process.
- Finish pruning dormant trees.
- Sharpen lawn mower blades and have mower serviced before spring rush.
- If you fertilize, apply to shade trees, fruit trees and shrubs when buds swell, as well as to evergreens and raspberries.
- Prune summer flowering (after end of June) shrubs.
- Finish pruning grapes. Non-dormant pruning will cause excessive bleeding. Finish dormant pruning of fruit trees and berry bushes. Remove diseased or infected branches.



2022 WCMGV Board of Directors

President—Sue Wilford

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Vice President—Karleen Remington

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Secretary—OPEN

Treasurer—Barb Herreid

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Wood County Extension Horticultural Agent—Janell Wehr

janell.wehr@wisc.edu

Judy Miller Secretary for membership meetings only

mflowers4q@gmail.com
715-572-4798

Future Article Submission

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

OPEN POSITIONS

Board Secretary

Public Relations Chair

Program Committee member

Wisconsin Master Gardeners

Website: <http://wimastergardener.org> or

wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu

Wood County Extension Website: <http://wood.uwex.edu>

WCMGV Website: <http://www.wood-county-master->

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, **Board 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 soon 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. Spring plant sale also needs plants, etc.**

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