



# Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County WI

October 2022

## President's Message October 2022

Once again our summer days have come to an end and we experience the days of fall, which are warm with cool nights, and an ever changing landscape of beautiful fall colors. It is a time when we begin to plant fall bulbs and clean out our garden beds to prepare for winter.

Since I am new to Missouri and zone 6, I am not sure of what this fall and winter will look like for me. I am not sure how long of a growing season there is here. My few tomato plants are still growing with lots of green tomatoes, so I am hoping there will be enough time to get some ripe ones soon. But I am looking forward to learning more as I am now a member of the Master Gardeners Greene County out of Springfield.



I have been with WCMGV for 9 years and have learned so many things. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been part of this organization. As President, I now need to say goodbye to all my fellow Master Gardeners. I have been in Marshfield, MO since June 1<sup>st</sup> and feel very disconnected from all the happenings in Wood County. It is no longer feasible for me to continue in this role. The Board is very dedicated to continue to lead your group forward.

If you are ever in Missouri along I-44 (Route 66), you are welcome to stop at our house in Marshfield. Address is: 790 Banning St, Marshfield, MO. [Skwilford692@gmail.com](mailto:Skwilford692@gmail.com) and (715) 305-6325. Coffee pot will be on – just let me know when you are coming.

I wish and pray that all WCMGV continue to pursue excellence in horticulture and have fun along the way.

Blessings to ALL  
Sue Wilford

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# September Meeting Minutes

## WOOD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Membership Meeting: Sept 27, 2022 (Total present: 12)

McMillan Library, 490 E Grand Ave., Wis Rapids – 6:00

Program: Forcing Bulbs for Winter Enjoyment w/ Karleen Remington

### BUSINESS MEETING

- **Meeting called to order** at 7:10 by Karleen Remington
- **Sue Wilford** said goodbye via Zoom to the Board at their last meeting. She will be writing a final note to members in newsletter.
- **Minutes from August 16th** -- Motion to accept: Barb Herreid, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bea Kohl
- **Financial Report by Barb Herreid:** Expenses and income report -- Motion to accept: Mickey Ericksen, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Judy Miller

**Extension Update by Janell Wehr:** Copy of Code of Ethics given out. Highlighted ethical commitments, and that as we work, we promote a spirit of cooperation. Remember that we are always research-based in sharing information.

Fall MG Training update: 7 volunteers have enrolled. Any member can audit class.

Consider encouraging others to audit or to consider mentoring a new member.

Prospective members can sign up on a wait list which is on Google Docs. Janell will check the MG email for others who are interested in signing up.

**WIMGA Report by Mickey Erickson:** After researching the possibility of writing a grant to WIMGA to purchase a tablet for use at Farm Market Horticulture Inquiries events, it was decided that there are still too many unknowns as to how it would work. More research needs to be done on how other organizations make this work.

Vacancy for Statewide MG coordinator/outreach specialist has been posted.

Zoom presentation "Underutilized Bulbs for Fall" by Zannah Crowe can still be viewed online.

"Houseplants by Design" will be presented online in Dec. More info to come.

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Nominations** for offices are making progress. Board is working to fill positions.

**Central WI State Fair** - Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> by Bea Kohl and Jill Becker.

118 contacts were made with passerbys. Many horticulture questions were answered.

Most popular times were Tuesday during judging and Sunday family time.

**Fall Plant Sale** – Maple Fest - Sept 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> by Bea Kohl and Jill Becker

Jill distributed a very detailed page of Key Points, Feedback and Suggestions from the

Fall Sale. A list of desirable dried plants is being created so members can plan to donate the most popular plants. This information should help us plan for next year.

We need more house plants and staffing is a problem.

**Storage space** by Karleen Remington: Ann Rozner has offered to store tables, signs, and weights in her barn. Other materials will remain in the Court House closet for now.

### NEW BUSINESS

- **Collection of milkweed seeds** is being conducted by DNR Office. Go to website for more info.

Chris Grimes is leading a **Fall Road Trip** on Saturday, October 8. A flier will be coming.

**Next meetings:** 6-8 pm

October 25<sup>th</sup> – Kratky Gardening w/Famia Marx at WR

## October Meeting Info

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> -- Homegrown National Park Program w/Barb Herreid at WR

Motion to adjourn: Barb Herreid, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Miller

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Miller  
Recording Secretary

**Kratky Gardening.....A Mystery is Solved!**  
**With**  
**Famia Marx**  
**McMillan Library**  
**490 East Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids**  
**6 to 8 PM, Tuesday, October 27, 2022**  
(This meeting and program will be available via Zoom.)

The most frequent program question heard this year will be answered during the presentation at our next meeting. **What is Kratky Gardening?** Famia has certainly aroused a lot of curiosity among our members. So tune in via Zoom or in person to hear/see her solve this mystery. Our regular business meeting will follow her presentation.

### **Final Program:**

**November 15<sup>th</sup>:** Homegrown National Park Program w/Barb Herreid at WR w/Social Break

**Note to Marshfield Members:** Much to my surprise, the summer long street reconstruction in the downtown area of Wisconsin Rapids was not completed at the time of our September meeting. My guess is it's possible that could be true for October. The detour for East Grand Avenue seems to take you away from the library, but if you follow the well placed signs you will get back to Grand Avenue in the vicinity of the library. I'm asking WR members to monitor the construction and let us know if any major changes have occurred.

**Reminder:** If you know of a WCMGV member who should be remembered in case of illness, hospitalization, death of a family member, etc. be sure to contact **Bea Kohl** so she can send a card and/or note on behalf of our organization. It takes all of us to keep track of how well our members are doing and whether anyone needs a little bit of our thoughtfulness.

**The Wood County Master Gardeners thank SUE Wilford for her years of service and dedication to the organization. We wish her well in her new home.**

# Plant Sale Information

## Plant Sales.....Everyone's Chance to Contribute

Two common comments heard at checkout were: 1) The main reason shoppers attend Maple Fall Fest was to visit the master gardener's sale. 2) Many shoppers said they very much appreciate the help they receive when choosing plants. One factor for the success of our fall plant sale is because we are part of Marshfield's Maple Fall Fest which has 150+ vendor booths, breakfast tent, kids' zone and entertainment. Matt McLean estimated the attendance was 10,000 over the two days. They and us bring in a lot of buyers. Many times, Deb was told at the checkout that the primary factor is the abundance of plants due to the many hours Donna Streiff and Joyce Fischer put in on care of the plants, especially the repotting. Plus, both worked all day Friday – Sunday without a break; as well as Bea Kohl and myself. Eleven current members and two previous members rounded out the crew. Judy Miller, Micky Erickson, Joy Mader, Fania Marx, Ann Rozner, Catherine Gruen, Deb Rokke, Diane & Jim Nickels, Peg Harvey, Carol Tomke, Barb Herreid, and Carolyn Schulein. THANK YOU for your volunteerism and dedication.

When I compared the photos of 2021 to 2022 there was a noticeable lack of houseplants this year. 2021 had houseplants on the ground and 3+ tables, 2022 was only one-quarter of a table. These were an important contribution to 2021. This year the larger succulents in display containers sold out within two hours! All members please think about growing more of these for next fall. Starting new plants by propagation will take some time and the committee is urging you to start by watching Melinda Myers' webinar on Boosting the Beauty of and Propagating Houseplants on Nov. 2 live, or afterward on demand. (See the educational opportunities for more info.)

The other shortage was in dried arrangements. An interesting customer comment by two ladies: they told us they drove from Stevens Point just to get our dry arrangements!! We need to take advantage of this. What we need is plants with distinct dried seed heads, and hydrangeas blooms. We completely sold out by 2pm on Sunday. With only 6 workers on Sunday, we could hardly help each other out let alone go harvest more dry arrangement materials. Right now, is a good time to harvest plants and/or their seeds. Also, throughout the year you can identify where plants are to cut when they are ready. Also think about planting more plants that make good dried seed heads.

The majority of plants for the sale have been grown by only 2 or 3 members. We need more members to grow plants from seed, or we will have to choose another idea for fundraising. We can't continue to rely on 1 or 2 people to do all the growing. If you need help getting started this winter, watch the Winter Sowing video on the Wood County MG website in the Members Only section or talk to Donna Streiff. If you need seeds, order from Prairie Moon Nursery. Choose plants that would be useful in your garden and keep a few for your use while growing others for the sale. Or if you want to take a jug of seedlings to transplant and tend for the summer, talk to Donna also. Remember that we cannot sell plants dug from our our gardens because of possible jumping worm transfers. Only plants raised from slips or seeds in commercial potting soil may be sold.

## Plant Sale Information

In spite of the shortages we did have a successful sale. The amount of donations we received doubled this year. As of 29 September, our profits were \$2,483.97. Adding that to the spring sale profits of \$1,548.00 equals many support and service opportunities.

The extra native plants did not make it to the September meeting, but if you would like to buy some of these plants or can use them in your projects, this is what was left:

Purple coneflower

Hoary Vervain

Switchgrass

Sea Oats

Golden Alexanders

Liatris

For growing conditions, see Prairie Moon Nursery or Prairie Nursery websites. The plants are in Marshfield but we can figure out how to get them to you if you want them. Pay Barb

## Central WI State Fair Report

Every year in late August during the Central WI State Fair the Wood County Master Gardeners staff a booth. We set up educational displays and provide handouts about gardening issues and the master gardeners. Twelve members volunteered to answer inquiries put forth to them by fairgoers. This year we added Karlene's potted plants and plant samples of common plant diseases and pest destruction.

A twist to the week was the handing-off of the one free parking pass the fair provides us. Bea Kohl started out with it and gave it to Micky Erickson to give to Lynn Bushmaker. Kate P who is thinking of joining got it next followed by Judy Miller, Helen Legare and Bea again. Those of us who live locally, Donna Streiff, Joyce Fischer, Karlene Remington, Sally Sadowska and I, Jill Becker, had to search for parking.

The booth is staffed by two members at a time, three when Kate helped. Some members used their phones or iPads to help answer questions. One fairgoer used her phone plant app to tell me the name of an unknown plant growing in my yard—it's Feverfew. Many staffers took advantage of their free day pass to get fair food or look at the exhibits before or after their 3.5-hour shift. Join us next year at the fair.

For those of you who are afraid of "educating" others, this is a perfect example of informal educating, as is the plant sale in spring and fall.

# Educational Opportunities

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

**GREEN THUMB GARDENING CLASS SERIES** The Dane County Extension Horticulture Program will be offering classes for home and community gardeners from September through early December 2022. The Green Thumb Gardening class series will be taught by Extension Horticulture Educators and UW-Madison specialists who offer in-depth and accessible gardening information on various topics. From building healthy soil to controlling pests or producing a bountiful vegetable harvest, this gardening class series will help home gardens to thrive.

Most of the classes will be held from 6-8 pm via Zoom and most classes will be recorded. Register for the entire class series at a discounted price or for selected classes.

The Green Thumb Gardening class series will give you the practical knowledge to keep your home garden thriving! Dane County Extension educators and local horticulture experts will provide in depth and accessible information for everyone from the novice to the experienced gardener. Register for the complete class series at a discounted price (\$140.00) or individual classes (\$12.00) according to your interests. Click the Tickets link for more information about each class.

## Remaining Classes

Monday Oct. 3rd 6-8 pm Intro to Insects  
Thursday Oct. 6th 6-8 pm Tree Pruning  
Thursday Oct. 20th 6-9 pm Plant Disease  
Monday Oct. 24th 6-8 pm Lawns and Turf Management  
Tuesday Nov. 1st 6-8 pm Organic Vegetable Garden  
Monday Nov. 7th 6-8 pm Garden Pests and Disease  
Thursday Nov. 10th 6-8 pm Tree Fruits  
Monday Nov. 14th 6-8 pm Wildlife in the Garden  
Monday Nov. 21st 6-8 pm Intro to Growing Berries  
Monday Nov. 28th 6-8 pm Perennials  
Monday Dec. 5th 6-8 pm Annuals

for complete class descriptions, visit <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/fall2022series>.

**Individual class enrollment is due one week prior to class**

For more information on the classes at the top of the next page, go to :

[Events – Master Gardener Program \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Tips for Getting Landscape Plants Ready for Winter** Thursday, October 13, 12:00-12:30 p.m. Free

Description: Even though the days are getting shorter and winter is around the corner, your gardening tasks are not done yet! Join us to learn about how to protect susceptible plants from snow and cold damage. We will also talk about proper mulching and water-

# Educational Opportunities

ing to help your plants through the fall and survive the winter.

Registration Link: [https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Fdx11AaAQrardFPsBGjzJw](https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Fdx11AaAQrardFPsBGjzJw)

## **Protecting Young Trees from Animal and Other Damage Over Winter**

Thursday, October 20, 12:00 p.m. Free

Presented by: Diana Alfuth, Horticulture Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension Pierce and St. Croix Counties

Description: In winter, young trees are prone to a variety of hazards. Be prepared to mitigate that damage by learning how to protect young trees from potential wildlife damage and how to effectively protect trunks from winter sunscald damage.

Registration Link: [https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ma1k392fTYeaoB7Sj\\_Cp0w](https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ma1k392fTYeaoB7Sj_Cp0w)

## **Maintaining Your Festive Houseplants** Thurs, October 27, 12:00-12:30 p.m. Free

Presented by: Janell Wehr, Horticulture Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension Wood and Marathon Counties

Description: Festive houseplants are a common gift that you may give or receive. 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.

[https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0-1kRfTsREaUKp28yfY--w](https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0-1kRfTsREaUKp28yfY--w)

## **Melinda Myers Programs**

### **Year-round Perennial Garden Maintenance** October 26, 2022 6:30 p.m. CT Free

Develop a year-round plan for keeping your garden looking its best. Melinda will take you through all four seasons of perennial garden care. We will discuss perennial gardening tasks from planting to winter care and all the needed maintenance in between. This includes dead-heading, digging, dividing and pest management. By the end of the session, you'll have a calendar of care to help you boost your perennial garden's beauty with the level of care you choose to provide. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

### **Boosting the Beauty of and Propagating Houseplants** Nov. 2, 2022 6:30pm

Free

Melinda will start by sharing tips for increasing the beauty of your houseplants with a bit of pinching and pruning. These will promote more compact, fuller growth and contain vigorous plants to their available space. Melinda will also explain when you should pinch, prune and propagate. Lastly, she'll discuss the various propagation methods for the variety of plants you may have growing in your indoor garden so you can expand your indoor plant collection.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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 by going to [On Demand Webinars :: Melinda Myers](#)

## Educational Opportunities

Plants Plus series are available on Canvas [Master Gardener Program: Canvas Classroom \(wisc.edu\)](#)

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Garden Guru-October 17 at Marshfield Public Library 6pm and via Zoom. To sign up for Zoom invite go to [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#). Topic is Forcing Bulbs for Winter Bloom

Spring blooming bulbs can be forced to bloom in winter long before they would normally bloom outdoors. Learn how to choose and prepare bulbs so they will bloom while the snow still surrounds us.

## WooHoo!! Road Trip!!



How about one more **ROAD TRIP** as the season winds down?

Just a little ways from Marshfield, in **Rozellville**, is

### Deborah Ann's Home and Garden

"Midwest's largest selection of garden art"

- Indoor, garden themed gift shop
- metal sculpture; metal planters, trellises, and arbors
- unique, custom, repurposed-metal sculpture
- themed art (Harley Davidson, Badgers, Packers, John Deere, etc)
- cast concrete figures, birdbaths
- indoor & outdoor wall decor
- holiday and autumn themed items...and more

**Something for you or someone on your gift list.**

Meet at Deborah Ann's at **10am Saturday, October 8**. Lunch to follow at The Kitchen Table in Marshfield. Dutch treat. Rain or shine.

**Car pool/caravan** leaving from the Wood County Courthouse at 9:15. Deborah Ann's is 7.6mi north of Auburndale, near the junction of County M and County C. (GPS address: 206195 County Hwy M, Stratford, WI 54484) Looking forward to a lovely autumn drive through Wood County. Hope you can join us. Bring a friend! Contact Chris Grimes for questions.

## Calendar Listings and Want Ads

### Important Upcoming Dates—Add to your calendars

Oct. 17 Garden Guru by Karleen “Planting Bulbs for Winter Blooms” at Marshfield Public Library and via Zoom 6pm

Oct. 25 Membership Meeting at WR “Kratky Gardening” 6-8pm

Nov. 15 Membership Meeting at WR “Homegrown National Park Program” w/ social break 6-8pm

Nov. 21 Garden Guru

### Storage Space Located

WCMGV has been offered storage space at Ann Rozner’s residence. This will be a significant saving for us as we do not need to rent storage space. For those of you who have never been involved in set-up for a fund-raising activity, here is a quick inventory: 13 tables, 2 tents with support poles, Ask a MG shelters, banners, signs and more. Tubs that contain smaller items and supplies for various activities will continue to be found in the storage closet at the court house. The jail addition to the courthouse will involve major work in the Extension Office area. But if it affects our storage, we will deal with it then. **Thank you Ann for providing the space and helping our budget.**

### Open Board Positions for 2022

**Wanted: Members to fill Board Positions** Open positions include President, Treasurer, and Directors for both North and South. If you are interested in any of these openings, please let the nominations committee (Karleen Remington, Bea Kohl) or any board member know. If you think someone else would be a good fit for one of these positions, talk to that person and suggest their name to one of the above people. Job descriptions exist for all positions and past officers are available to help new officers if needed. We need ALL members to become involved if the organization is to grow and thrive. Please think about helping out in some way. See the next page for additional ways to support the organization.

## More Want Ads



## Help Wanted

### Publicity Director

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.

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

## October Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener website.

- On October 1, start treatment of poinsettias for bract coloration. Place in total darkness for 15 hours every day for 2 months. Night temperature should be 65-70 degrees F. Keep soil moist.
- Plant peonies until October 15. Mulch after ground freezes.
- Seed perennials such as Oriental poppy, Iceland poppy, gas plant, primrose, scabiosa, phlox, pansy and penstemon. Mark where planted.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs. Bulbs can be planted up to six weeks after first fall frost. Fertilize existing bulb beds with bone meal, milorganite, or 5-5-5 fertilizer.
- Harvest gladiolas at least six weeks after bloom and before ground freezes. Cure for three days at 80 degrees before storing. Label and store at 40-45 degrees in open trays.
- Remove iris leaves to prevent over wintering of iris borer eggs. Cut leaves to four-inch fans.
- Store tuberose at 45 degrees F, tuberous rooted begonias at 45-50 degrees, and caladium at 60 degrees.
- After killing frost, rose bush foliage should be stripped and old leaves cleaned from bed. Shortly before ground freezes, roses should be given good deep soaking. Prune branches enough to prevent whipping around in wind or to fit under rose cones.
- Sow seeds of hardy annuals: cleome, pinks, candytuft, larkspur, bachelor buttons and calendula. Mark where planted.
- Plant Jerusalem artichoke during last two weeks of month.
- Prepare vegetable garden soil for early spring planting. Remove old stalks to prevent insect and disease problems next year. Spread manure, incorporate into soil.
- Rejuvenate rhubarb by dividing into quarters and replanting.
- Cut back asparagus ferns and dispose to prevent insect and disease problems next year. Incorporate manure into soil and mulch with straw.
- Use mulch around Brussels sprouts to moderate soil temperature and prolong harvest.
- Water plants well for more cold tolerance.
- Plant garlic 2-3 inches deep and cover with 4-6 inches of straw mulch.
- Rake, chop and compost any fallen leaves from lawn.
- Fertilize shade trees when leaf color changes and leaves drop.
- Plant dormant deciduous trees and shrubs from now until ground freezes. A two-inch layer of mulch reduces freezing and thawing, which can damage roots.
- If fertilizing lawn one time a year, apply it in the third week of October. If fertilizing twice a year, apply in October and early June. If three times a year, include a September application.
- Water evergreens and foundation plantings before ground freezes.
- Protect woody ornamentals and fruit trees against mice.



# 2022 WCMGV Board of Directors

**President—Sue Wilford**  
715-305-6325

**Vice President—Karleen Remington**  
715-387-1863

**Membership Secretary—Judy Miller**  
715-572-4798

**Board Secretary—Chris Grimes**  
715-424-2878

**Treasurer—Barb Herreid**  
715-325-2075

**Director—Jill Becker**  
715-387-8040

**Director—Ann Rozner**  
715-435-3804

**Director—Bea Kohl**  
715-423-8908

**Director—Joy Mader**  
715-387-4310

**Communications Rep.—Chris Grimes** 715-424-2878 and  
**Famia Marx** 715-652-2405

**WIMGA Rep—Michaeleen Erikson**  
175-435-3616

**Wood County Extension Horticultural Agent—Janell Wehr**  
[janell.wehr@wisc.edu](mailto:janell.wehr@wisc.edu)

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.

## Future Article Submission

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 25th of the month to: [streiffon-clay@tds.net](mailto:streiffon-clay@tds.net)

## OPEN POSITIONS

**Public Relations Chair**

**Program Committee member**

**President**

**Treasurer**

**Two Directors (North, South)**

**Wisconsin Master Gardeners**

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

[wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu)

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

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

**WIMGA Website:**

## Final Reminders

Our plant sales have become our major fundraisers. Please consider how you can help by providing houseplants and perennials. Start planning soon so plants are ready for the sales.

Leadership positions for 2023. We will need a President and Treasurer for certain. Other positions may also be open. Our organization needs the help of lots of people to function. Please consider how you can help keep us strong and vibrant in 2023. Ask the current position holders if you have questions about what is involved, or talk to someone you think would be a good fit for a position and tell them why they should volunteer for it.