



WOOD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Wood County WI

March 2023

President's Message March 2023

March 2023

About the time you read this, it will be "Meteorological Spring". Feel better? Kinda, but... We live in Wisconsin, so we know the drill. When we have a few days with a temperature that is a two digit number that starts with 3, the anticipation starts to build. I'm thinking of bright sunshine, a warm breeze wafting through the budding trees, birds singing, and lush, colorful flowers filling the greenhouse. Ahhhhhhh. But...we know it's going to take a little while yet. A little planning and patience...lots of patience... is still needed as the earth comes back to life in her own time.



So we wait...but not idly. Lots is going on in the Master Gardener Program as we look ahead with anticipation to those vibrant, active days. There is planning and patience here too. The ORS is slated to be up and running in March. Soon you can see what's new in the system upgrades of the ORS, review and sign Terms and Conditions, and record the volunteer hours and education you have done so far this year. Some of us have done winter sowing of native plants to patiently nurture through the summer with plans of selling at our Fall Sale in September. Others are preparing vegetable plants, which were a huge hit last year, for our Spring Sale in May. If you have the skill and room to do so, I hope you can plant a few extra seeds this year to add some plants to our sale. Monthly meetings with an educational program start again this month on the fourth Tuesday. Project leaders are planning their work goals and schedules. A possible mini seminar is in the works; not only that, watch for news about a couple road trips (with lunch, of course), garden tours, and a picnic coming up this summer.

Sometimes, they say the anticipation is the best part. For me, the greatest delight is getting together with the talented people in our organization, learning with and from all of you, and seeing all the great things that we create and accomplish as a group. Now, to work on the patience!

Chris

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March Meeting Program

What's Up in WCMGV?

With

Karleen Remington and Others

Site: Training Room at the McMillan Library WR

6 to 8 PM, March 28, 2023

In Person and via Zoom

The spring bulbs I started forcing in October have been blossoming at various locations in my house for the past month....hyacinths, narcissus and daffodils. An amaryllis is glowing "pretty pink" among a collection of green plants in front of a south window. All of that must mean spring will get here soon? I write this as I look out my window at fresh 4 foot snowbanks!

A sure sign of spring is the first WCMGV meeting on March 28!

Karleen and other board members (and hopefully Janell) will use our program time to bring everyone up to speed on the Master Gardener changes in policies that have been implemented in the past year or two. The clearer we are on how those policies affect each of us, the better. We may also have time to discuss how the changes may affect the future shape of our organization as well as answer some member questions/suggestions that appeared in the November sign-up documents. There may be other topics that will be discussed as the BOD sees the need. It's called **MG 101....the Basics**.

The Program Committee is working on arranging the other programs for the year. Some are established; others are a work in progress. The confirmed programs include:

May 23: Renewal Pruning w/Donna Streiff

July 25: Garden Tour w/Joyce Fischer

August 15: MG Summer Picnic w/Local Horticulture Experts



Join our Communication Team!

Facebook Co-administrator Wanted

For those of you on Facebook...we're looking for another person to help administer the WCMGV Facebook page. It's a digital age and our page is an important resource for accomplishing our mission to educate and to engage with the public. We use it to promote our activities and fundraisers and feature educational topics of interest to Central Wisconsin gardeners. Administrators respond to inquiries from the public sent to our page, post promotional notices about our meetings and fundraisers, and post topical educational features. It's easy and does not require much of a time commitment, so it's a great way to volunteer to get our message out there. Training provided! Call Chris Grimes with questions.

New Year Reminders

The ORS has a new website link, ors.wimastergardeners.org. Please bookmark this new link. **(NOTE: the link will work after the ORS is back online)** The old address is redirecting to the new address; however, some Internet browsers are hanging onto the cache and are not allowing this to happen. For the redirect to work, you will need to clear your cache in the browser.

Remember, you must complete the Terms of Acceptance **before** you can enter any hours. **This has to be done every year.** **Be sure to hit the Submit button at the top or bottom of the page to record all your answers.** **If your contact info changed, please update that there too.** **There is an excellent video on the ORS site right now explaining how to do this. Still have questions? Contact:**

wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu.

The new year's ORS is projected to open about Mar.1. However if you go to the ORS site, you will be able to watch about 20 minutes of videos instructing you on the way to submit your Terms of Acceptance for 2023, and how to use ORS. If you watch all the videos, you can claim .6 hours of C.E. There are detailed videos on how to use the ORS to enter your hours for volunteering and education. If you were confused on how all this works, these videos are great for clearing up any questions you might have.

The March Vibe

The latest edition of the Vibe should have been in your email inbox this past week. Check it out for updates on the new Onboarding Lite. **If for some reason you did not complete it last year or did not hit Submit at the end, you need to do it this year before you can enter any hours. There are no exceptions this year.** Here is the link to the March Vibe: <https://t.e2ma.net/message/yffnnf/qhve6ou>

Here are some highlights from the Vibe regarding the new ORS site:

- Updated Terms and Conditions - please read carefully and submit
- The reorganization of materials for ease of use (It is much improved)
- Ability to print participation wallet-sized cards
- How to get a new name badge after signing in for 2023

If you are confused about how to enter some of your hours, the revised Onboarding Lite(OBL) is an excellent way to refresh your memory. For example, what counts as preparation vs service hours? How is continuing education different from preparation? A review of OBL is a good way to get it all straight in your mind and is worth 5 hours of continuing education if you complete all of it. (It probably will take much less than 5 hours but you can count 5.) It has great practice examples and is much improved over the old OBL. Link to Canvas website where you will find OBL:

[University of Wisconsin-Madison Login](#)

Note from the Editor

I need the articles for the newsletter at least two days before the First of the month. I have been getting articles very late which makes it hard to get the newsletter out on time. When an article is submitted at the last minute, it means the pages have to be reworked and often articles need to be juggled around to make it all fit and still look nice and be readable. Please make every attempt to get articles turned in within a day or two of Chris' reminder on the 25th of every month. Your editor thanks you for your consideration!

Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

Melinda Myers Free Webinars

Learn the Basics on How and When to Prune Shrubs Wednesday March 1 6:30 pm

Pruning paranoia is common among gardeners, but once you understand the basics you will make better pruning decisions in less time and with much less stress. We will cover a variety of shrubs commonly found in the landscape. Melinda will also share information on what and when to prune shrubs for their health and maximum beauty.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Grow Your Own Flowers for Bouquets in Containers, Raised Beds & Gardens Mar. 8 6:30pm

Picking flowers from your gardens and containers extends your enjoyment indoors. Whether looking for a few flowers to enjoy in a vase, share with friends, or as a centerpiece for parties, you can grow your own. We will look at starting plants from seeds, bulbs, and transplants as well as exploring opportunities that may already be growing in your yard.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Create an Oasis on a Deck, Patio, or Balcony Mar. 15 6:30pm

Create an outdoor oasis on your patio, deck, or balcony. Whether it's a space to escape, share with others, or entertain, we will look at ways to make it your space. We will look at plantings, container gardens, and other ways to screen unwanted views and create a sense of privacy. Then, we'll fill your oasis with sounds, fragrant plants, and beauty to create the space of your dreams.

Planning, Planting, and Care of Your Rain Garden Mar. 21 6:30pm

Rain Gardens are a beautiful way to reduce the risk of basement flooding, sewer overflows and water pollution. Melinda Myers will provide tips on planning a rain garden, help you select the best plants and how to provide needed care.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

In a Pot, You Can Grow A lot! Mar. 22 6:30pm

It's true; you can grow just about any plant or combination of plants in a container. Whether it's fruits and vegetables, herbs, flowers, or trees and shrubs, we will look at ways to combine them into attractive gardens. Melinda will provide tips on plant selection and combinations that work. Plus, she'll share tips for keeping them looking their best and producing the most flowers and fruit.

[Webinar Registration Success - Zoom](#)

Understanding Gardening Basics to Boost Your Gardening Success Mar. 29 6:30pm

Gardening is a wonderful way to grow your own food and a beautiful landscape. But the thought of purchasing and growing plants during the first few years can be daunting. We will review terminology and provide tips on selecting the right type of plant for your growing conditions and gardening goals. Then we will look for low-maintenance ways to keep your garden healthy, productive, and beautiful.

[Webinar Registration Success - Zoom](#)

Melinda will be in person at the Outagamie County MGA Annual Conference in Appleton on March 25. For more info [2023 OCMGA Annual Garden Conference Registration, Sat, Mar 25, 2023 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

UW Extension Horticulture

Recordings from last year's webinars, if you missed them, are at the bottom of the page at:

[Webinars for WI Gardeners – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

There are also recordings of webinars on various topics from the past at:

[Videos – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

The Extension Horticulture website is a treasure trove of educational articles, videos, webinars and courses. You can get on the Horticulture email list to be notified of educational opportunities at:

[Stay informed about Extension gardening learning opportunities!](#)

From the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic

Dr. Brian Hudelson will be giving monthly webinars on diseases. To find descriptions of each webinar and to register for any or all of them go to:

[2023 PDDC Plant Disease Talks | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic \(wisc.edu\)](#)

March 22- Dr. Death's Plant Disease Predictions for 2023

Learn about Brian Hudelson's predictions of what diseases will be prevalent and of importance in 2023. Keep in mind however, that if Brian were actually able to predict accurately, he would not be giving this talk, but would be relaxing on a beach somewhere, drink in hand, having made millions playing the stock market.

Garden Guru

There are two changes for Garden Guru Programs for March and April.

The dates have changed to a week earlier than previously scheduled. Programs are on March 13 and April 10. The library is also changing the online delivery to You Tube instead of Zoom. Programs will be live streamed on You Tube which means you now do not have to register ahead of time. Just go to the library's You Tube page and watch live. They will still be recorded for viewing later.

March Garden Guru topic is "Tools and Tool Care" March 13 6pm

April Garden Guru topic is "Planning and Planting Your Gardens" April 10 6pm

Upcoming Seminars and Conferences

Columbia County MGVs "Let's Get Green and Growing Garden Seminar" March 25 Rio HS/MS For more details see [Let's Get Green & Growing 2023 Registration, Sat, Mar 25, 2023 at 8:45 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Outagamie County MGVs Annual Garden Conference March 25 Appleton WI For more details see [2023 OCMGA Annual Garden Conference Registration, Sat, Mar 25, 2023 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Citizen Science Opportunities

This is another MG activity that does not involve “digging in the dirt”. In case you missed the info from the Master Gardener office about these activities here is a brief summary. All the details of all programs can be found in the Master Gardener section of the Canvas classroom.

Citizen Science

Citizen Science involves you spending time observing and reporting on a specific cause. We want you to provide impact by advancing knowledge through organizations that speak to citizen science as a topic of scholarship and community of practice. While opportunities abound, not all of them will count. Only certain opportunities can be counted towards the MG program hours.

Below are the categories for Citizen Science and the opportunities allowed under each. How you can count your time towards each will be outlined in instructions found in the Master Gardener Program: Canvas Classroom. No other citizen science opportunities can count toward volunteer service in the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program hours.

- Invasive Species Monitoring Surveying populations for the Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN) <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn/> No aquatics.
- Pollinator Monitoring Surveying populations through WiBee: The Wisconsin Wild Bee App <https://pollinators.wisc.edu/wibee/>
- Phenology Records Recording phenology observations for the National Phenology Network Only plant and insect observations count towards volunteer service. <https://www.usanpn.org/partner/volunteer-scientists>

Editor’s note: This should give you plenty of opportunities for you to earn your C.E. hours. Keep this copy of the newsletter for the links to the sources for Melinda Myers, the Horticulture website, and the PDDC. Sometimes programs come up right after a newsletter is published and are over before the next newsletter comes out. By checking the sites, you can catch programs that may not make the publication dates of the newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Mar. 13 Garden Guru “Tools and Tool Care” 6pm ERMPL or You Tube

Mar. 16 Wood Co Plant Diagnostics Planning Mtg 1pm WR Courthouse Training Rm

Mar. 20 BOD meeting Marshfield at 4pm Adler room ERMPL

Mar. 28 Membership meeting

Apr. 12 Wood County Plant Diagnostics Planning Meeting 1pm WR Courthouse 114

Apr. 10 Garden Guru “Planning and Planting Your Gardens” ERMPL or You Tube

May 20 Tentative Spring Plant Sale date in Port Edwards

Sept. 15-17 Tentative dates of fall plant sale

Plant Sales Update

Plant Sale News!

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Plant Sale News!

Our Spring and Fall Plant sales will be our only fundraisers again this year (with hopes that will change in 2024!)

Planning for the Spring Sale at Cathy & Doug Schutz's house again during the Port Edwards Community Garage Sale on May 20 is in full swing. We will purchase a limited number of perennial plants including some 2023 plants of the year, but we're depending on contributions from members to create the buffet of great plants people loved (and bought) last year. Once again, we cannot accept garden grown plants to avoid unknowingly spreading jumping worms.

How can you help?

- Plant a few extra vegetable and flower bedding plants to donate when you start seeds this spring.
- Divide/start succulent and houseplants for sale this spring or when they are a little bigger in the fall.
- Consider the bulbs that need dividing this summer to hold for the Fall Sale (Sept 16-17 in Marshfield)
- Take advantage of our remaining cold weather to winter-sow native perennials for the Fall Sale.
- Set aside clean pots, hand tools, garden art and books, galvanized or other containers for fairy gardens/succulents, any gardening equipment, etc for Garden Treasures
- Save seeds for the Fall sale
- Plant annuals this summer that would look great in dried arrangements (Sage, Dusty Miller, Blue Salvia, etc)
- If you're unsure how to save seeds...winter-sow...start seeds....contact a board member and we will connect you with a member than can help.
- Ask friends, family, neighbors, and former members if they have items or plants they want to "set free"
- Share our publicity posters (coming soon) on your social media, emails to family & friends, or post them at work.



Let Jill Becker 715 387 8040 or Bea Kohl 715-423-8908 know how you can help, whether with plants, donations, or a gift of your time on sale day. Find their emails on the Member's Only page of our website.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! We'll all love the fruits of our efforts!



We'll need lots of help to set up the Spring Sale on Friday May 19, and/or Sale Day, May 20.

Please plan now how you can help.

BTW...Project leaders/fellow members, if you want to take advantage of the association's buying power, let us (Jill or Bea) know soon what varieties of natives you'd like for your own garden.

2023 WCMGV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President—Karleen Remington

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Wood County Extension Horticultural Agent

Janell Wehr 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 Submissions

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

Wisconsin Master Gardener Website:

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

Wood County Extension Website:

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

Wood County Master Gardener Association Website:

<https://wood-county-master-gardeners.org/>

WIMGA Website:
<https://www.wimga.org>

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. Bea's phone number is 715-423-8908

Let's get planting for the plant sales:

- ⇒ Houseplant propagation for both sales
- ⇒ Starter plants for flowers and vegetables spring sale
- ⇒ Plants for dried arrangements for fall sale
- ⇒ Winter sowing for natives and perennials for fall sale