



# WOOD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Wood County WI

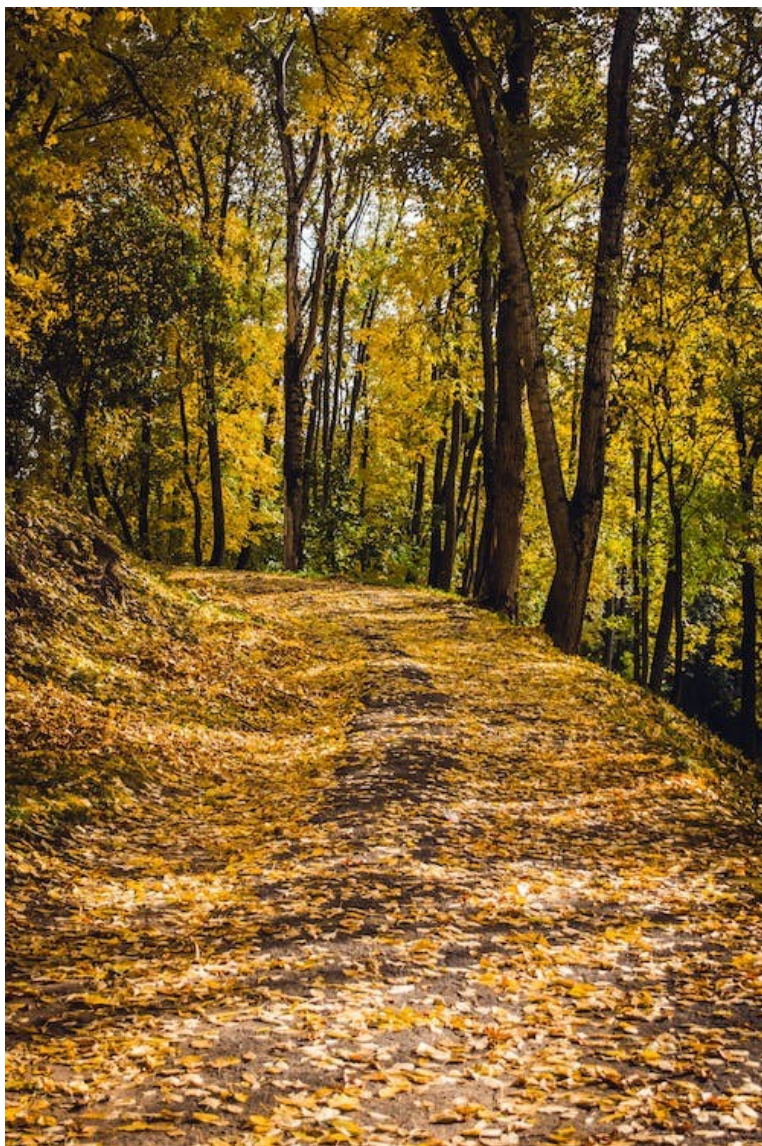
September 2023

## President's Message September 2023

I recently attended an estate sale for a couple whose garden was in our Garden Walk a few years ago. The woman, the gardener of the couple, had died a few years ago, so her garden was a shadow of its former self. The white picket fence was still there, but the shade perennials and cheerful red geraniums were gone. I recall the delight of our guests as they toured her garden and her pride in showcasing what she had created.

September can be a bittersweet time. Crisp, sunny days show us some of the best that nature can offer...but there are reminders that nothing lasts forever. The ebb and flow of life marches on. I truly believe as gardeners, we are doing God's work as our creativity and stewardship support the Earth. My hope for you is you learned something this year that makes you burn to try it in your garden next spring, as life is renewed, and that you have the opportunity this fall to relax and enjoy what you created this year. You are special. Thank you and Happy Autumn!

Chris



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# Keystone Plants

**Paul Whitaker, Professor of Biology  
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point at Wausau  
Marshfield Public Library, 104 South Maple  
Felker Family Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**5:30-7:30 PM, September 26, 2023  
In person and Zoom**

Last November, Barb Herreid mentioned the concept of keystone plants in her program on Homegrown National Parks. Your program committee thought it would be useful to explore this idea a little more. So, we have enlisted the aid of Paul Whitaker, Professor of Biology at UWSP in Wausau. Paul has interests in insect ecology, biological control and organic agriculture. He is affiliated with Monk Gardens in Wausau where he does training and workshops. His presentation to WCMGV will focus on Keystone Plants most appropriate for the State of Wisconsin.

**Please note** that we revert back to our **start time of 5:30** because we are asked to begin vacating the library at 7:30.

**Note also that both our September and October meetings are scheduled for the Marshfield Library** as the meeting space at McMillan Library has already been reserved. We will be in the **Felker Family Room space in the far corner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**. Enter the library front door, walk past the checkout desk and you will find the elevator for your ride up. Or walk the stairs situated on the left side of the library.

## Future Programs

October 24: Bonsai Horticulture, Marshfield Public Library

November 14: Looking Back; Moving Forward & A Festive Social, site TBD



# July Meeting Minutes

**Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer Assoc. General Membership Meeting**  
**July 25, 2023 6 pm**  
**Joyce Fischer Garden Tour, Marshfield**

**Program: Joyce Fischer Garden Tour** - Total Present: 19

**Business Meeting** - Called to order 7:22

Chris Grimes

**Secretary's Report:** (Judy Miller) Review of minutes from June 27. Minutes will be put on file.

**Treasure's Report :** (Famia Marx) Report will be placed on file.

**WIMGA:** (Mickey Erickson) The WIMGA Association's goal is to continue to provide online training. Landscape Design was the first series of seminars and is online.

Other upcoming seminars are:

September 27, 6:30pm Matt Wallrath, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator Invasive Species

October 26, 6:30pm Dr. Susan Carpenter, Restoring Native Prairie Stream & Savanna: Restoration in Progress

January 16, 2024 Craig LeHoullier, Bring Your Garden to the Sun: All About Container and Straw Bale Gardening

More information can be found in the WIMGA Newsletter.

## **Old Business:**

**Garden Walk 2024 Feasibility Team:** (Lil) Deb Rokke, Chris, Cathy Schultz, and Lil have looked at 2 of 5 gardens being considered for the 2024 Garden Walk. If you know of a garden that you would like to recommend, let Lil know soon. The goal is to make the final decision by mid-August. A survey to help plan and offer suggestions will be circulated at tonight's meeting. Share ideas with committee.

**ORS - Volunteer Hours and Awards/Reporting of 2022** - Members need to get hours for 2022 to Chris if you have not already done so.

**Central Wis State Fair** – Tuesday, Aug 22 – Sunday, 27 (Jill) again circulated a signup for our volunteers for our booth. She will also offer the opportunity to work to the Marshfield Garden Club.

## **New Business:**

**Fall Sale Update:** (Jill) circulated a sheet for volunteers who are willing to help on either Friday, Sept 15 for set up, or Sept 16-17. She also circulated a inventory sheet of what members are growing/collecting for future sales. We will purchase plants from Mayfield in West Bend. Members who volunteered to select plants are Ann Rosner, Judy Miller, Bea Kohl and Jill.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10. M/S/P Brundidge/Remington

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, August 15. PICNIC! 6:00

Edwards Alexander Park, Port Edwards – 210 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Directions in the August newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Miller, Secretary

# August Meeting Minutes

## Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer Assoc. General Membership Meeting August 15, 2023 6 pm

Edward Alexander Park, Port Edwards

Program: 2023 Sizzles and Fizzles Total Present: 24

**Business Meeting:** (Chris Grimes) Called to order 7:04.

**Secretary's Report:** (Judy Miller) Review of minutes from July 25, 2023. Minutes will be put on file.

**Treasurer's Report :** (Famia Marx) No new activity. Report will be placed on file.

**WIMGA:** (Mickey Erickson) Online training remains the same as listed in WIMGA Newsletter.

September 27, 6:30 pm Matt Wallrath, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator Invasive Species

October 26, 6:30 pm Dr. Susan Carpenter, Restoring Native Prairie Stream & Savanna: Restoration in Progress

January 16, 2024 Craig LeHoullier, Bring Your Garden to the Sun: All About Container and Straw Bale Gardening

**Wood County Horticulture Report:** (Janel Wehr) Janel will present twelve weeks of Horticulture Training entitled "Sowing Success: Evidence Based Gardening Essentials". The in-person classes will run from Sept 12 – Dec 5. Most classes meet on Tuesday 5:00 – 7:00 at MacMillan Library in Wis. Rapids. The cost to take the class is \$125.00. Participant does not need to commit to becoming a Master Gardener. Current Master Gardeners can audit the class for no cost. Janel invites any members to come and share their MG experiences with those taking the class. Contact Janel if interested. Chris will send out the syllabus for class topics.

### **Old Business:**

**Science by the River:** Sept. 30 - Janel will be doing a booth and would welcome help, or has suggestions for other booths. Register by Sept. 1.

**Central Wis State Fair –** (Jill) Tuesday, Aug 22 – Sunday, 27 Jill circulated a signup for volunteers for the Master Gardeners' booth. She will also extend the opportunity to work to the Marshfield Garden Club. We have a 10 x 10 space for our booth. We will display handouts, cards, and general "Ask a Master Gardener" information. Workers get a free pass to park. Jill strongly supports visiting the Master Gardeners' Gazebo garden, which is close to our booth and to check out the Open Class entries.

**Garden Walk 2024 Team:** (Lil) Deb Rokke, Chris, Cathy Schultz, Jan Myers and Lil have chosen 5 gardens to be in the Garden Walk next summer. Information gathered from last month's survey was key in making some decisions. The most popular date was July 20. Raffle, Silent Auction, and Baskets with gardening items were strongly supported. We will be required to apply for a license to conduct raffle.

**Fall Plant Sale:** (Jill) Clipboard for help to set-up/work/take-down was circulated. Dates are September 15, 16 & 17.

### **New Business:**

**Bylaws Revision:** Bylaws need to be reviewed yearly. A team revised them in February and the BOD reviewed the changes. The revision will be presented to the membership for voting soon.

**Nominating Committee:** Committee needs to have more representation as only Bea Kohl and Karleen Remington are on. Contact Karleen to serve on this short ad hoc committee

**Social Event for November meeting:** Cathy Schultz, Lil Schotten and Judy Miller will be on the committee to plan for that meeting. The meeting is Nov. 14, one week earlier than usual because of Thanksgiving. The social committee will determine the location.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35. M/S/P to adjourn. Sharing Program "Sizzles and Fizzles" followed.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 26. Marshfield Library (second floor). Program: "Keystone Plants" by Paul Whitaker from UWSP-Wausau campus.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Miller, Secretary

# Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

## UW Extension Horticulture

The latest Webinars for Gardeners series:

**August 30 Noon online Growing Garlic in Wisconsin Free**

**September 6 Noon online From Scraps to Soil:Composting Basics Free**

**September 13 Noon online Soil Testing —Why, When How Free**

Go to [Webinars for WI Gardeners – Wisconsin Horticulture](#) to register for any or all.

Recordings of the Pollinator Week programs can be found at [Pollinator Week – Wisconsin Horticulture](#). These were very good programs and worth your time to view for C.E. credit.

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

### **The Bad and the Ugly:**

**Ten Diseases not to Compost Sep 27, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 pm Free online**

Description

Certain plant diseases are so horrible or so deadly that composting is not an appropriate way to get rid of affected plants. Learn about some of these diseases and their proper management.

To register: [2023 PDDC Monthly Disease Talk Registration Form | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Garden Guru** September 18 at 6pm in person at the Marshfield Public Library or on Zoom

Topic is “Growing Succulents”. To enter the Zoom presentation, go to Everett Roehl Memorial Public Library web page and click on Adults, then Programs, scroll down to Garden Guru and click on “Online”. That will take you to the YouTube location of the program. Click on the Garden Guru icon to watch the webinar live. The direct link that should work is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U31npJm3OhY>

## WIMGA Education Programs

The first fall program is September 27, 6:30pm Matt Wallrath, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator “Invasive Species” Check the WIMGA newsletter or website for more information and to register for the programs.

# Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

## Sowing Success

Greetings Master Gardeners!

I'd like to invite everyone to audit Sowing Success: Evidence-based Gardening Essentials. There is no cost to audit the course; just let me know so I have enough handouts. I would also like to invite volunteers to come speak at the beginning of the classes. You can recruit for your projects or just share why you find membership in the association meaningful. Classes are mostly **Tuesday** evenings from 5:00-7:30pm at the McMillian Library in Rapids. Note, the second week the class is on **Thursday**, Sept 21, not **Tuesday** Sept 19. Otherwise the rest of the classes are on Tuesdays.

Here's the syllabus for this year:

9/12	Welcome
*9/21	GGP
9/26	Botany
10/3	Soils
10/10	IPM
10/17	Insects
10/24	Diseases
10/31	Weeds/Wildlife
11/7	Woodies/Herbaceous Ornamentals
11/14	Veggies
11/21	Fruits
11/28	Lawns

\*Thursday

Come to one, many, or all! Reach out with questions.  
Janell

## Janell's September programs

### **Bring them inside!**

*As the nightly temperatures turn cold, it is time to bring our plants inside for the season. The transition indoors can be very stressful on plants. In this program, we will cover considerations to help reduce the stress, including light, fertilizer, pests, and watering.*

-Sept 11, 10 am. Mosinee YMCA Aquatics Center (Creske Lobby, Mosinee High School)

-Sept 20, 1pm. The Landing, Woodson YMCA Wausau.

### **Sustainable Lawn Care**

*What does it mean to have an organic lawn? How does that compare with reduced risk turf management? Can you have a beautiful lawn and reduce the amount of inputs like fertilizers and pesticides? In this program we will cover specific strategies to improve your lawn's health while reducing the risk to the environment.*

-Sept 14, Mosinee Community Education hosted at Mosinee High School in library. 6pm.

-Sept 20. Marathon County Public Library-Wausau Branch. 10am and again at 6pm

### **Don't waste your thyme: Composting 101**

*Learn the best practices to effectively manage yard trimmings and other organic materials generated at your home. This class will be interactive in nature. We will cover the composting process, materials and methods, using the compost and other options for managing yard trimmings and food scraps.*

-Sept 19. 6-8pm. Hosted by North Central Wisconsin Master Gardeners @ Northcentral Technical College, Wausau.

**Science by the River. Saturday Sept 30. Come out and enjoy a day of science... by the river! 😊**

# Plant Sale Buzz

## Plant Sale Buzz



- Collect some boxes that can be used for transporting plants for customers with larger purchases. Amazon boxes are good!
- **Label plants** using the WCMGV designed labels
- Pot up houseplants in good potting soil and appropriate sized container.
- Start watching for and collecting mature seeds to package for sale at Maple Fall Fest
- Collect any of the following during August from your garden or your neighbors' gardens. Dry them for fall bouquets (a major money-maker at the sale) The amount of materials doesn't matter. Every little bit counts!

Liatriis  
Curly willow branches  
Clover flowers  
Stems of lavender  
Amaranthus  
Everlastings/Straw flowers  
Pampas grass  
Hyssop  
Penstemon  
Rose hips  
Iris seed heads  
Poppy seed heads  
Bachelor buttons  
Statice  
Sage  
Celosia

Tall marigolds  
Artemesia  
Globe amaranth  
Sea holly  
Hydrangeas of any kind  
Blackberry lily  
Goldenrod (not yet gone to seed)  
Cone flowers  
Ox-Eyed daisy seeds  
Chinese lanterns  
Boneset (not too mature)  
JoePye Weed (not too mature)  
Baptisia seed pods  
Black-eyed Susan seed heads  
Wheat & oats sheaves, ornamental millet  
Grasses, wild and domestic, not yet dropping seeds

**If you have not done so,** email names of native plants to Donna and all other plants to Jill. Numbers would be helpful also.

**Remember, if you are in contact with former or retired MGVs, please invite them to help out for a few hours at the plant sale. We had a few help out in the past and they enjoyed seeing their former garden friends.**

**We are selling the same items that we have sold in the last two years.**

**Drop-Off Location for non-plant items:** Sept 4<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Please call before you drop off.

Marshfield – Jill Becker 715 387-8040

Nekoosa – Deb Rokke 715 325-1959

Rudolph – Ann Rozner 715 435-3804

WI Rapids – Bea Kohl 715 423-8908 Check with her on current road construction status.

Continue to care for your plants until the 14th plant drop off

9/14 Plants only—South Wood County Historical Museum | 540 3rd Street South, Wisconsin Rapids by 6pm. Placing plants in boxes helps with transport vs single pots

## Work Schedule Help Needed

### Each day it takes fifteen members to successfully staff the Fall Plant Sale

I know we have only asked for help at the August membership meeting because we did not want to confuse members with sign-ups for the fair booth and fall sale at the same time.



For your information the following **positions** need to be filled during the sale:

Fri 7-9 people to set up and price

Fri–Sun 2-3 people making dry arrangements,

Sat-Sun 2-3 people directly selling natives and purchased perennials

Sat-Sun 2 more assisting shoppers with the other sale items

Sat-Sun 2 members at the cash boxes

Sat-Sun 2 members at the Ask a M.G. booth

Sat-Sun 2 members transporting purchases up to a half mile away = \$ donations

Sat-Sun 1 member to step in where needed

Sun 4-5 people to take down

So far 7 members have said they can help on Saturday, less people are signed up for Sunday.

**Please call Bea 715 423-8908 or Jill 715 387-8040 with the hours and position you can help with. Email requests will also be going out.**

Did you know that you can earn your required 24 volunteer hours just by helping during the three-days associated with the fall plant sale? 15-20 hours could have easily been earned supporting the spring sale. For the fall, it takes about 25 hours to set up, sell and clean up. The breakdown is 14 weekend sale hours, 2 more hours to open and close, a three-hour Sunday clean-up and a six-hour Friday set-up/pricing day.

We encourage current/former members, friends and family to help as little as a few hours to the full 25 hours. This year Donna and Joyce will only be available to work on one of the sale days. Last year they and others never took a break all three days. So, if you are knowledgeable about natives and fall perennials, please sign-up to help. If specific plant knowledge is not your talent, there are many other areas to help at the sale.

Note: **Over 10,000 shoppers come to the 150 vendor booths at Maple Fall Fest.** We hope to have enough Income from our two sales to not only cover the annual budget, but the 2024 Garden Walk as well.

I have been able to get a few off-street parking passes, so that should not be an obstacle. Let me know if you would like one.

Jill

**Let's make this the biggest and best sale yet!!**





Common Name \_\_\_\_\_

Botanical Name \_\_\_\_\_

Light Sun Part Sun Part Shade Shade

Height \_\_\_\_\_

Bloom Color \_\_\_\_\_

Bloom Time \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Listen to Your Plants: General Guidelines for Collecting Seeds**

Take a daily walk around your gardens and bond with your plants. Begin to observe when plants form seeds. In Central Wisconsin, this may start as early as the middle of May and run through November. Start a notebook or take photos specifically for seed harvesting. This will help to organize and track progress. Each and every kind of seed collected needs to be checked to make sure that when planted the following season, they stay true to the “mother seed” plant. This is generally known as an “heirloom”. Check reputable websites or heirloom seed catalogs to verify it is an heirloom.

### Rules of Thumb

1. Prepare for seed collecting by gathering all necessary supplies to properly gather, dry and store seeds.
2. Collect during the dry part of the day. Never collect seeds that are green. Allow the seeds to mature and fill out completely. When the seed pods or coverings are turning brown or are almost completely brown, collect the seeds. Not all seeds will mature and germinate. One exception are phlox varieties. It may be too late if these seeds have completely turned brown because the pods explode and shoot seeds everywhere! This is exactly why taking a daily walk around is extremely important. Another plant to watch is the poppy. As the seed pod matures, windows (like in the crown of the Statue of Liberty) will form as the large pod begins to turn brown. As soon as the windows form, lightly tap the pod. If the pod rattles, snip the base of the stem with a hand pruner. Keep the stem upright. Shake the seeds into a large bowl. Seeds do not all dry at the same rate on a plant. Several visits to one plant may be necessary.
3. Air dry seeds. Do not use an oven or a dehydrator. Air movement, no direct sunlight, and low humidity are three crucial aspects of properly drying seeds. Some seeds may need to be hung upside down to dry such as herbs (dill, caraway, coriander). I cut my phlox with a stem and place the stems face down in a large brown paper bag. The cut plants will have the opportunity to shoot seeds in a contained environment. Based on the kind of seeds, a framed screen, paper plate, coffee filter, paper towel, or even a cardboard box may help to wick away the moisture. Do not use plastic.
4. Different methods are used to separate the plant debris from the seeds depending on the size, shape and weight of the individual seeds. I use an extremely large metal bowl and a windy day to separate the chaff from my cosmos seeds. Poppies and anise hyssop do not require any cleaning.
5. For storing seeds, I recommend paper envelopes, waxed envelopes or other paper products. Do not use plastic. Then place in a cool, dark and dry place to give away, trade or plant next year. I like to place the envelopes in gallon glass jars. Some seed collectors like to store seeds in a refrigerator. Because there are seeds that require cold stratification, check the seeds that are being collected to see if they fall into this category (lavender, sage, echinacea, verbena, sea holly, anise hyssop, astilbe, bee balm, bergamot, baby’s breath, bleeding heart, coreopsis, columbine, valerian, comfrey, English daisy, lemon balm, larkspur, delphinium, catnip, snap dragons, pinks, blazing star, lobelia, lupine, milkweed, mugwort, mullein, phlox, poppy, black-eyed susan, penstemon, rosemary, sweet pea) to name a few.

This information is not all inclusive. Each and every seed type may vary in unique ways to collect, dry, and store for future use. As last month’s article, decide when to plant these seeds—spring, summer or fall? When plants seed out, that may naturally be the time to plant. Remember to look and listen to your plants. They can tell you a lot about themselves. Enjoy exploring the many possibilities of collecting seeds.

By Ann Rozner



# Bugging Out Over Plant Diseases

By Brian Hudelson

This growing season has largely been a bust when it comes to plant diseases. Our dry weather has not been favorable for diseases (particularly leaf diseases) to development. On the other hand, 2023 has been a banner year for insects, and [PJ Liesch, the UW insect diagnostician](#), has been very busy identifying insect problems. As it turns out, plant diseases and insects are not totally unrelated. There are a fair number of disease-causing organisms that can be moved from plant to plant by insects, and it's these insect-vectored pathogens, and the diseases that they cause, that I have been seeing a lot of this year.

**Fire blight:** In my June 2021 web article ([Fired Up About Fire Blight](#)), I bemoaned the fact that often when people see dying branches on apple, crabapple, and pear trees, they assume the dieback is due to fire blight. Often it is not. But, this year I have seen an uptick of fire blight cases. I suspect that, in part, this is due to increased transmission of the fire blight bacterium (*Erwinia amylovora*) by honeybees. In the absence of rains during flowering, which tends to discourage their activity, honeybees are out pollinating a wide range of plants, including apples, crabapples, and pears. Honeybees also visit branches where they feed on oozing sap. On trees suffering from fire blight, this sap often contains the fire blight bacterium. Honeybees become contaminated with the pathogen and carry it to apple, crabapple, and pear flowers, where it can infect. As I attempt to diagnose fire blight, I often check dying apple, crabapple, and pear branches to see if infections appear to have started near flower clusters. If so, my fire blight radar goes off.

Among the numerous fire blight cases this year, I had two interesting/sad ones. The first case (more in the interesting category) was fire blight on mountain-ash. Although called an "ash", this tree (the one with the clusters of bright orange fruits) is in the same plant family as apples, crabapples, and pears, and it is a known host for fire blight. The sample that was submitted to my clinic was from a tree that had numerous dying branches, and it appeared that infections had occurred through flowers. The second case (definitely in the sad category) involved an apple grower who had numerous dwarf trees that he had espaliered. Many of them exhibited dieback, and all of the samples that he submitted tested positive for fire blight. Unfortunately, my recommended pruning for fire blight (i.e., cut 12 inches below where there are obvious symptoms/dieback) functionally meant that the grower had to remove and destroy many of his trees.

**Bacterial wilt of cucurbits:** I have had a number of vine crop (e.g., cucumber, melon) samples arrive at the clinic with wilting symptoms. Fungal diseases like Verticillium wilt and Fusarium wilt, as well as water mold diseases like Phytophthora root and crown rot, can cause wilting symptoms. However, for many of the cucurbit samples in 2023, not only was there wilting, but there was also significant scarring on the vines from cucumber beetle feeding. These insects can carry *Erwinia tracheiphila*, the bacterial wilt pathogen, in their intestinal tracts. As they feed, cucumber beetles defecate in their feeding wounds, inoculating plants. The bacterium colonizes the water-conducting tissue of the plants and blocks it off, leading to reduced water movement from the roots to the vines, and thus wilting results.

Diagnosis of bacterial wilt can be relatively easy on certain types of vine crops (particularly cucumber). You cut a wilted vine off near the base of a plant, then cut a roughly six to eight inch vine segment from that severed vine, giving you two vine sections. You then hold the two vine segments apart for about 10 seconds (allowing liquid to ooze from the severed water-conducting tissue), then rub the ends of the cut vine segments together gently for another 10 seconds, then very slowly pull the two vine sections apart. If you see thin, spider web-like strands pull between the two vine piec-

es, you're dealing with bacterial wilt. Management of this disease primarily depends on keeping cucumber beetles under control.

**Insect-transmitted viruses:** There are many viruses that can adversely affect plant growth and productivity. A fair number of these viruses are insect transmitted. Early in the year, when many of my samples come from commercial greenhouses, I tend to see thrips-transmitted viruses. These include *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) and *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV). Interestingly, this year I detected TSWV in commercially grown potato plants, where the virus produced necrotic (i.e., dead) spots that were reminiscent of early blight symptoms.

Aphids also commonly transmit plant viruses. In herbaceous ornamentals and vegetables, *Cucumber mosaic virus* (CMV) is the aphid-transmitted virus that I most commonly see. This virus causes blotchy color (i.e., mosaic) or line patterns on leaves, as well as growth distortions. In recent correspondence with Damon Smith, the UW-Madison field and forage crop pathologist, I learned that he has been seeing another aphid-transmitted virus, *Barley yellow dwarf virus* (BYDV), in many wheat fields this year. In wheat, BYDV causes yellowing of the upper leaves of the plant, particularly the flag leaf (i.e., the leaf just under the developing grain head). Infection by the virus can lead to significantly reduced yields. BYDV can also infect other "grass" crops including barley, oats, and corn. I had a suspicious corn sample arrive at the clinic in late July, and I suggested the client submit a sample to another lab for BYDV testing (I do not test for this virus at the PDDC).

The diseases described above just scratch the surface of plant diseases where there is a potential insect connection. If you would like read more, check out the UW Plant Disease Facts on ash yellows, aster yellows, Dutch elm disease, ergot, oak wilt, plum pox, soybean vein necrosis disease and thousand cankers disease. After reading, if you if you have questions about these or any other plant diseases, feel free to contact me at [pddc@wisc.edu](mailto:pddc@wisc.edu) or (608) 262-2863. I am always here to help.



## Central Wisconsin State Fair Report

### Ask a Master Gardener Fair Booth

This year we found ourselves in the Lang Building in the heart of the Central WI State Fair. When the vendor to our right dropped out of their 10' by 10' booth, we were asked to expand to also cover this area. Famia's son quickly provided a large table and two chairs. This allowed us to have an open area and seating for guests as they told us about their gardens or asked for help with a gardening issue. Educational displays on the Marshfield Educational Fairground Gardens, natives, and invasives were set up, and other helpful handouts were out for the taking. Once again, Ann Rozner, Bea Kohl, Donna Streiff, Joyce Fischer, Judy Miller, Karleen Remington, Lynn Bushmaker, Micky Erickson, and Sally Sadowska took a 3.5-hour shift. Joining us this year were Alma Meza, Audrey Brundidge, Deb Rokke, Jan Myers, Janell Wehr and Shelby Weister. On behalf of the association, thank you for helping with this Master Gardener event. To support these members, a free parking pass and a free day pass made it easier for members to attend and work the booth.

# Calendar of Events

**September 12 Start of “Sowing Success” course WR Library**

**September 15-17 Fall plant sale Maple Fall Fest Marshfield**

**September 26 Membership Meeting Mfld Library 5:30**

**October 24 Membership Meeting Mfld Library 5:30**

**November 14 Membership Meeting TBD**

**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

## 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!



**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.

# September Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County WI Master Gardener website and Melinda Myers website

- Allowing September rose blooms to stay on plants aids in winter protection. Watch for black spot on roses and remove infected leaves.
- Lift gladiolus corms when leaves begin to brown. Dry in sun a few days.
- Divide most perennials except asters and mums, which haven't bloomed.
- Divide and replant peony roots. Avoid planting too deeply.
- Bring coleus, geranium, caladium and begonias indoors.
- Place amaryllis in cool basement for a 3-month rest period.
- To set buds, Christmas cacti require a rest period and cool nights (55 degrees.)
- Sow snapdragons, cornflowers and other hardy annuals a few weeks before the first frost date. Mark where planted to avoid damaging seedlings in spring.
- Carefully inspect spring flowering bulbs before planting. Discard soft bulbs.
- Remove newly set tomatoes, blossoms and new growth five weeks before expected frost because they won't have time to mature.
- Sow annual ryegrass or oats for winter cover and green manure in beds that won't be planted until late in spring. Keep watered.
- Remove all weeds from garden before they go to seed.
- Pinch out the growing points at the top of Brussels sprout stems so bottom sprouts will reach maturity.
- Watch for early frosts. Cover the garden when frost is predicted to obtain up to another month of growth. Water plants well for greater frost protection and maximum growth.
- Cut back perennials after frost.
- Dig and pot parsley, chives and tender herbs for transfer indoors to sunny window.
- For better keeping, harvest carrots, beets and turnips before first frost kills foliage.
- Gather squash, pumpkins and gourds when ripe and before frost damage. Leave 2-inch stem on vegetable for better storage.
- Clear garden beds immediately after harvest. Destroy any diseased plants by burning, composting in a hot pile or sealing in container for disposal.
- Early September is the latest time to plant spring-flowering shrubs.
- Aerate lawn when temperature is 60-70 degrees.
- Stop planting evergreens by mid-September.
- Harvest pears when light green. Separate from branch with slight twisting motion.
- Harvest grapes. Fertilize with one-cup bone meal per plant.
- Harvest apples. Rake leaves and fallen fruit from apple trees to control disease and insect problems next year. Be careful not to injure long-lived fruiting spurs when harvesting.
- Cut out spent raspberry and blackberry canes after fruiting.



## 2023 WCMGV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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](mailto: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>

### Plant Sale Reminders

- Bring boxes and bags to transport customer sale items
- Label all plants—use MG label or similar format
- Get non plant items to your local pick up point before the 15th—call first
- Call Jill or Bea to sign up for work times ASAP
- Plants from the south end to be dropped off Sept.14 at Wood County Historical Museum by 6pm
- Collect dried materials for arrangements
- Collect seeds and package for sale
- Invite former/retired members to help