

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

March 2021

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.

WCMGV 2021 President's Notebook

Happy Spring Members. It's time to get out your garden tools and get them ready to use! I noticed buds are forming on shrubs, a few plants are peaking up through cold soil, however it is a bit early to uncover plants completely!! I have my spring work list all made up! Bob and I also have a list of places to go and view spring birds returning, like the Green Trail in Stevens Point area where Eagles are currently nesting. Time to get those bird houses/nest boxes all cleaned out and put in place. We add a few nest boxes every year. Nesting boxes do not need to be fancy. We have used old bike helmets, small wicker baskets, and small strawberry boxes with success.

Please take the time to read this month's newsletter, it is full of information. Monthly membership meetings have returned. Feb. 23rd was our first Zoom membership meeting with 20 in attendance. We have educational programs arranged for each meeting. Watch your email for information about the next Zoom meeting, March 23.

Just a bit of information for you—there will be no Garden Walk, Seminars, or Wisconsin Rapids Plant Sale in 2021. Pending events for 2021 are Marshfield Plant Sale at Maple Fest. Members may not do any work in their in ground MGv projects until they contact Janell, she will provide required guidance! If you have any questions, please email or call me. I am happy to hear from you and try to answer your questions.
Ruth Cline

In this Issue

- President's Notebook (1)
- WCMGV Meetings via Zoom (2)
- Zoom, Zoom (2)
- Continuing Ed. Hours (3-4)
- Latest Update on Projects (5)
- Marshfield Library Programs (5)
- Helpful Tips for Zoom meetings (6-7)
- Let's Get Green Brochure (8-9)
- PDDC Fact Sheets Updates (10)
- Gardening with Melinda Myers (11)
- Native Seed Sowing Experiment (11)
- March/April Garden Guide (12-13)
- Extension Update (14-19)
- Volunteer Recognition (20)
- Recipes by Ann Rozner (7, 20)
- WCMGVs Membership Minutes (21)
- WCMGV BOD and Meetings (22)

WCMGV MEETINGS of 2021 - via ZOOM.

In 2021 we will be hosting virtual monthly meetings, at least until it will be safe to meet face to face. So to begin, we held a trial virtual meeting using Zoom on Tuesday, February 23rd at 6pm. It was a chance for all to connect virtually and catch up/discuss the activities for 2021.

Starting in March 2021, we will resume our monthly meetings via Zoom with an educational component. Our February meeting allowed us to do a trial run and make sure everyone could connect virtually.

Thank you to everyone who completed the ZOOM survey in November. There were 43 WCMGV who responded. The responses were:

I have had experience with Zoom and would be comfortable meeting via zoom: 22

I have never used Zoom, so would need education on the process: 10

I have a computer/device with video and audio capacity and internet connection: 18

I have a computer/device with internet connection, but without video and audio capacity: 2

I do not have internet access but could participate on my landline: 3

I am not interested in participating in meetings virtually: 8

All WCMGVs will get an invite via email/communication about the upcoming meetings. For those who have never used Zoom, refer to the following document included in this newsletter: *Helpful Hints for Connecting to Zoom Meetings*, on the pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

There is also a helpful video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fIYWnfTc5o>
For anyone who would like to connect with a trial zoom meeting before the next meeting, contact Sue Wilford at swilford@tds.net or Janell Wehr at Janell.Wehr@wisc.edu. We can set up a one on one meeting to practice connecting.

ZOOM, ZOOM - Update on using Zoom for all meetings

Our organization has officially moved into the virtual world and we now have our own Zoom Professional Account. Barb Herreid is the manager of this account and can set up a meeting to meet your meeting needs. Her contact is: 715-325-2075; bherreid@wctc.net

There are two options to set up your meeting:

Schedule the meeting ahead of time with Barb Herreid using the WCMGV Pro Account. She will need date, start time and which MGVS to invite to the meeting. Barb will schedule it, get the meeting going and then turn over the host duties to someone else on the call and then will leave the meeting. These Zoom meeting can have unlimited attendees and there is no time limit.

Schedule a meeting yourselves on your personal Zoom account. These meetings are limited to 40 minutes with 3 or more attendees. If the meeting runs longer than 40 minutes, all attendees can log out and log back in using the same Zoom link, but prior to the first session ending.



Continuing Education Hours

If you should still need to re-certify, please read the message below:

Remember, for 2020, you do not need to report Volunteer Hours to certify, however, you still need to report 10 hours of Continuing Education.

What counts for CE hours? Here's a recap:

Here is where you can find the guidance for CE hours. Be sure to click on the green bar labeled "Continuing Education".

Need help finding appropriate resources for Continuing Education? Here's some options for CE:

- This is the approved media list. If you choose a book from that list, each 25 pages count for 1 hour. You can only use books for 5 of your required CE hours.
- Online Articles. Each article is worth .25 hours CE There's a lot of good articles on that page.
- Plants Plus. Most of the Plants Plus will be worth 2 hours each. There will be a short video, an article to read, and a short quiz to check your understanding. Lots of options here.
- You may find some of the playlists of videos under "Extra Stuff" interesting.
- Do you listen to Garden Talk with Larry Meiller? That counts, too.

Need help entering your hours? **No problem!** Send me an email with your hours and I can get them in for you this year.

2020 was a rough year for everyone. If you don't have enough CE hours to certify, **don't panic.** Volunteers that I do not hear from that do not have 10 CE hours for 2021 will be updated from "Certified" to "Exempt" status. You can think of Exempt status as a grace year. You can still participate in the Master Gardener Program but will need to earn volunteer and continuing education hours in 2021 to recertify for 2022.

If you don't see this until after the first of the year, **don't panic.** Send me an email and I can still update your information. Questions? Please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Janell Wehr
Horticulture Educator
UW-Madison Division of Extension
Marathon County & Wood County

I am following Wisconsin Department of Health Services, UW-Madison, and federal guidelines due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak. I am working remotely and am most easily reached through [email](#).

Qualifying Continuing Education Hours

Approved Media Resources: Master Gardener Continuing Education

Books:

Master Gardener Program Manual (Wisconsin)
The Well-Tended Perennial Garden by Tracy DiSabato-Aust
Decoding Gardening Advice by Jeff Gillman & Meleah Maynard
Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin by Lynn M. Steiner
Pollinators of Native Plants by Heather Holm
Bringing Nature Home by Douglas W. Tallamy
The Truth About Garden Remedies by Jeff Gillman
The Truth About Organic Gardening by Jeff Gillman
Month By Month Gardening in Wisconsin by Melinda Myers
Lasagna Gardening : A New Layering System for Bountiful Gardens: No Digging, No Tilling, No Weeding, No Kidding! By Patricia Lanza
Birdscaping in the Midwest, A Guide To Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds by Mariette Nowak

Webinar/Video/Television Series:

Wisconsin Gardener
"Great Gardening", Duluth PBS - WDSE
Badger Talks online recorded webinars (related to plants, gardening, gardens only):
<https://badgertalks.wisc.edu/>
Let's Grow Stuff short webinars <https://pbswisconsin.org/letsgrowstuff/>

Radio Program

Larry Meiller's "Garden Talk"

More Continuing Education Hours

Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison is offering a Virtual Lecture Series. There are a total of 5 lectures - one each month and you can sign up for an individual lecture or for the entire series. Each Zoom lecture will be 60 minutes in length plus a 30 minute Q&A with the presenter and will start at 7:00 pm. There is a nominal fee of \$15 for each presentation and if you sign up for all five of them, you'll receive a \$10 discount.

The topics, speakers and dates are as follows:

March 25 - Nature's Best Hope presented by Doug Tallamy, professor at the University of Delaware and author of the award-winning book "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens" as well as his most recent book "Nature's Best Hope".

April 29 - Edible Landscaping to Kitchen Gardens: Planning, Planting to Harvest **Presented by Lisa Hilgenberg**, horticulturist at the Chicago Botanic Garden's four-acre Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden, educator, and host of *Weekly Gardening Minute* on WBBM News-radio.

May 27 - Answering the Call-Gardening for a Better Life presented by Jeff Epping, Erin Presley and Katey Pratt, Olbrich Botanical Gardens horticulturists.

For a more detailed description of each lecture and/or to register, go to olbrich.org and click on Virtual Lecture Series.

Latest Update on Projects

The following projects have been dropped and are no longer WCMGV projects. These changes are because of client requests or MGVS who have retired. All clients have been notified of the change.

Pittsville Area Historical Museum
Wisconsin Rapids Zoo
Weber Nature Park
Wood County Veterans Memorial planters at Courthouse
Greenville Town Hall.

Funding: As we continue in 2021 with the pandemic, we will not be able to host fund raisers for this year. There will be no spring plant sale or garden walk. There is optimism that we may host a fall plant sale, but that has not been authorized at this point. Thus without any funds being raised, we are continuing with our same practice for our projects as 2020.

*All project expenses **must** have **prior** approval by Barb Herreid, treasurer.*

Updated volunteer lists: Both the WCMGV Membership list and Volunteer list for 2021 have been updated and are located on the 'Members Only' site on the Wood County Master Gardener website: <https://wood-county-master-gardeners.org/>

Here is the current Master Gardener Program project guidance in terms of COVID: The Wisconsin Master Gardener Program continues to follow guidance from the UW-Madison campus for a safe return to approved projects. This guidance, combined with current staffing levels, restricts and prohibits some volunteer projects and activities. Projects submitted and approved in 2020 must be submitted again for 2021. For clarification of what is and what is not allowed, based on the current guidance, please follow this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zQgifGJZflcVaKz0MAoN45jlcTQsKl7BEfXnvQnFaFs/edit?usp=sharing>

Please bear in mind, with changes in the pandemic, there will be changes to this guidance. If you have a project that requires approval, send Janell an email with a rough date when you plan to begin and a list of volunteers who will be working at the project site. Do not fill out the COVID Program Checklist. I will do that for you. The list of volunteers can be updated throughout the season; this isn't a static document.

Marshfield Library Programs via Zoom Sign up on the Marshfield Library

Garden Guru topics-spring 2021

March 15 (Sue Wilford will do this month)

The Importance of Using Native Plants in your Gardens This presentation will differentiate between native and non-native plants and why it is important to plant 'native' which benefits our ecosystem. Participants will learn that by planting natives, pollinators, birds and wildlife will be attracted to this natural environment.

April 19

Garden Planning and Planting Learn how to plan your garden for best results and how to sow seeds and successfully transplant starter plants. Emphasis is on vegetable gardens but applicable to flowers.

Helpful Hints for Connecting to Zoom Meetings



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Helpful Hints for Connecting to Zoom Meetings

Meeting participants may use several devices and tools to connect to Zoom Meetings.


This document will provide guidance for each of these methods:

- ☐ PC or MAC software (desktop client)
- ☐ Web browser
- ☐ Android mobile apps, and Apple mobile apps (smartphones or tablets)
- ☐ Telephone call-in

Helpful links:

- ☐ <https://zoom.us/test>: Test your internet connection by joining a meeting at any time.
- ☐ Zoom Support page: [Joining a Meeting](#)
- ☐ If you have difficulty, you may find answers on Zoom's support site: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

Join via PC or MAC Zoom software (desktop client)

- If you will join a Zoom Meeting from a personal or work desktop or laptop, downloading the Zoom client is an easy way to join.
- You may automatically download the Zoom desktop client by clicking here: <https://zoom.us/support/download>
- You may either join a meeting without creating an account or signing in by clicking  and entering the 10-digit Meeting ID
- You may also enter the Meeting directly by clicking on the link included in your invitation, it begins with <https://uwextension.zoom.us/j/10-digit-number>



Join from a web browser

- If you are unable to use the desktop client, you may join from your browser.
- Click on the link in your invitation and this prompt will appear. Click "join from your browser"

If nothing prompts from browser, download & run Zoom.

If you cannot download or run the application, [join from your browser.](#)

Recommended browsers:

- Chrome or Firefox work best
- Internet Explorer, Edge, and Safari have limited capabilities.

Join from an Android or Apple app via Smartphone or Tablet

- Open the Zoom Cloud Meetings mobile app from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store
 - Tap “Join a Meeting” if you want to join without signing in.
 - Sign Up or Sign In with an account then click +Join
- Enter the 10-digit Meeting ID
- If your invitation includes a One-Touch Mobile code, simply tap to connect from your mobile device.
- Apple users! (iPhone, iPad, and MAC users: Please refer to the Settings section on the Getting Started with iOS Zoom support page.

Join from a telephone

- On your phone, dial the phone number provided in your invitation.
- Enter the meeting ID number when prompted, using your dial-pad.
- Please note that long-distance charges may apply. This is not a toll-free number.



Virtual LET'S GET GREEN AND GROWING 2021



MARCH 20, 2021 | 9:00AM
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
COLUMBIA COUNTY MASTER
GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

- 9:00 Zoom opens
- 9:20 Welcome
- 9:30 Keynote: "Creating a Garden of Four Season Interest"
- by Zannah Crowe
- 10:30 Keynote Q&A
- 10:40 Break
- 10:45 Session 1: "Addressing Invasive Species with Citizen
Science" - by Anne Pearce
- 11:30 Lunch Break
- 12:00 Session 2: "Minor Fruits - Major Impact" - by Carol Shirk
- 12:45 Break
- 12:50 Session 3: "Daylilies - The Perfect Perennial"
- by Pat Trapp
- 1:35 See you in person in 2022!

FREE OF CHARGE Online Conference

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjllcOyprij8vHdRNMuGgDpk7CwWXHkkPzs->

MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Keynote: "Creating a Garden of Four Season Interest"



Presenter Zannah Crowe

Planning and planting for all-season interest will distribute beauty and increase enjoyment of your yard and garden throughout the year. Zannah Crowe is a professional horticulturist with over 35 years of experience in the green industry. She is currently employed as Educational Horticulturist at Johnson's Gardens in Cedarburg, where she enjoys assisting gardeners with selection and care of their landscape plants, seasonal color containers, and indoor houseplants. While her area of expertise is herbaceous perennials, she is an avid plant enthusiast with a keen interest in vegetation of all sorts. Join Zannah for a visual stroll through the seasons as she presents planting considerations for bringing interest to your garden through all four seasons of the year.

Session 1: "Addressing Invasive Species with Citizen Science"

Presenter Anne Pearce- WI First Detector Network

Invasive species are the number two threat to biodiversity, second only to habitat loss. The effects of invasive species are increasingly evident on Wisconsin's landscape. Non-native insects, plants and diseases continue to spread throughout our state. Gardeners can be an important part of the efforts of citizen scientists working to minimize the impact and spread of invasive species in Wisconsin! Anne

coordinates the Wisconsin First Detector Network, a citizen science network that empowers people to take action against invasive species through education and volunteer opportunities. She is also a member of Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin's board of directors and leads restoration volunteer work parties at the UW-Madison Arboretum.



Session 2: "Minor Fruits - Major Impact"

Presenter Carol Shirk- Certified Master Gardener Volunteer

Although fruits like currant, gooseberry, jostaberry, aronia berry, hardy kiwi, and serviceberry do not make the list of major small fruits like strawberry and raspberry, blueberry and grape, they can have a major impact on the home gardener. Some are native, some are easier than others to grow, but all have benefits to wildlife, pollinators and gardeners themselves. With just a bit of space and time your landscape can have one or more of these beauties adorn your landscape. Carol has been a Master Gardener for more than 20 years. Raised on a dairy farm in Indiana where her family grew most of what they ate, she has been gardening for more years than she cares to remember. She is an active member of Dodge County Master Gardener Association and enjoys every opportunity to help others learn to garden.

Session 3: "Daylilies - The Perfect Perennial"

Presenter Pat Trapp- Certified Master Gardener Volunteer

Learn why daylilies are so popular, as well explore the many daylily choices. Pat will discuss daylily care as well as how and where to purchase a variety of different daylilies. She will share her passion for the perennial that blooms for weeks while others droop! Pat is a Master Gardener who has been trying out, and enjoying different perennial and annual flowers all her adult life. She is a member of both the Wisconsin Daylily Society and Wisconsin Peony Society. Pat has long professional experience in adult education.

Visit us at:

[HTTPS://COLUMBIA.EXTENSION.WISC.EDU/MASTER-GARDENER/LETS-GET-GREEN-AND-GROWING/](https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/master-gardener/lets-get-green-and-growing/)

'FACT SHEETS' updates/additions from UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC)

The following fact sheets have been updated or added by Brian Hudelson from PDDC. These fact sheets include the most recent recommendations for control/treatment. Japanese Beetles and Grub Control in Turfgrass are huge issues we deal with every summer in our communities. Get the most updated information for your own knowledge or that we can share with the public. You can find all 'fact sheets' at the PDDC website: <https://pddc.wisc.edu/>

Tomato Spotted Wilt of Potato - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Tomato_Spotted_Wilt_of_Potato.pdf

Black Stem Borer https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Black_Stem_Borer.pdf

Japanese Beetle https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Japanese_Beetle.pdf

White Grub Control in Turfgrass - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/White_Grub_Control_in_Turfgrass.pdf

Wireworms - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Wireworms.pdf

Fungus Gnats on Houseplants - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Fungus_Gnats_on_Houseplants.pdf

Tomato Pruning - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Tomato_Pruning.pdf

Growing Vegetables in Containers - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Growing_Vegetables_in_Containers.pdf

Vegetable Varieties for Containers - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Vegetable_Varieties_for_Containers.pdf

Milkweed (Ornamental Plants Toxic to Animals) - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Milkweed.pdf

Cranberry Flea Beetle - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Cranberry_Flea_Beetle.pdf

Fungus Gnats & Shore Flies in Greenhouses - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Fungus_Gnats_and_Shore_Flies_in_Greenhouses.pdf

Tobacco Mosaic - https://pddc.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/39/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Tobacco_Mosaic.pdf

Gardening Series with Melinda Myers

If you have Internet access you can view a series of recorded programs by Melinda Myers. These can be found on her website: <https://www.melindamyers.com/> Scroll down the right side to a brown box that says "Upcoming Appearances" and click on the orange "On Demand" button. You will see a list of the programs available: There is also a wonderful handout for each program that can be downloaded.

- Improve Your Indoor Environment with Houseplants - Tips for Indoor Gardening Success
- Grow Flavorful and Nutritional Herbs Indoors
- Low Maintenance Houseplants for Low Light Situations
- Organic Control for Houseplant Pests
- Getting Started Growing Vegetable & Flower Gardens
- Growing Nutritious and Flavorful Edibles Indoors
- Low Maintenance Gardening for Loads of Beauty & Health Benefits
- Summer Blooming Bulbs

Each is about an hour long with Q&A following. This has been posted since the series began in January and I don't know how long it will be available. So make a cup of coffee or cocoa and enjoy a little inspiration!



Hey if anyone is aware of a really good gardening journal book--the old fashioned paper ones where I can plot out my planting schedule, I would appreciate knowing so I can order one.

Respond to: susan.miller4@usbank.com

WCMGV newsletter editor needed. If interested, respond to [Ruth Cline](#).

Native Seed Sowing Experiment

It's not too late to try your hand at starting some native seeds by the winter sowing method, but you need to start soon to take advantage of the chilling needed for most seeds. The offer still stands for any members who wish to try to grow native plants by the winter sowing method. See the November newsletter for specific directions.

I have many different kinds of seeds I am willing to share with anyone who wants to give it a try. Please let me know if you prefer to have seeds of plants that are sun lovers or those that like some shade. I can send them to you, or we can agree to meet to get them to you. Please email or give me a call as to your preference.

I am willing to answer any questions you have. You can count the time you spend planting and tending as volunteer hours.

If you have stated seeds already, you will need to start monitoring them for watering needs when the snow starts disappearing if we don't get adequate rain. So let's get growing!!
Donna Streiff 715-207-6218 streiffonclay@tds.net

March Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- 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.



This file is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic](#) license.

April Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Start tomato seeds indoors. Research shows seven-week old transplants produce earliest fruit and best overall results.
- Cut back over-wintered geraniums to six to eight inches.
- Start fast-growing annual flowers indoors.
- Start seedlings of eggplant, okra, peppers and broccoli.
- Set out lily of the valley clumps with pips just even with the ground.
- When annual beds can be worked, turn over green manure crop such as annual rye in beds for annuals and vegetables. If none was planted, top-dress with compost or rotted manure.
- Remove mulch from spring flowering bulb beds.
- Container grown or balled and bur lapped trees and shrubs can be planted at any time during the growing season.
- Divide perennials and pot for the PCMG plant sale by the end of the month. This will provide roots time to get established.
- Prune and fertilize all bush fruits and grapes. Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after ground thaws but before blossoming.
- Plant rhubarb and asparagus as soon as ground can be worked.



Tomato starts. [Ralph Hogaboom](#), Creative Commons, some rights reserved

Here's an idea...

Have you come across something interesting related to horticulture and you were prompted to share it with your mom or your sister or your best gardening friend? How about sharing that with your WCMG colleagues by submitting the information for our monthly newsletter?

We're looking for anything of interest...

- a great garden book you just read/bought
- a pertinent seminar
- a fabulous greenhouse you found
- an interesting gardening story
- a garden tip that really worked well
- a great recipe

We'd love to hear your experience. Feel free to send a picture featuring your find. All you have to do is send it to Peg Klinkhammer, our newsletter editor (wcmgvs@gmail.com). The deadline is the 10th of every month.

Now another place to share your messages

The WIMGA newsletter is also looking for submission of articles that feature some educational subject, MG tips, fun garden ideas, and especially, news about what is going on in our MG association. So keep that in mind as you plan and implement your project. What aspect of your project can you and your team highlight with an article and pictures? Let's show Wisconsin what Wood County is up to!

Send your submission to the editors of WIMGA newsletter Hali Dressecker at halirenee@yahoo.com or Nancy at westcoasternancy@gmail.com

Follow this link to the latest WIMGA newsletter to see what they are doing.
<https://www.wimga.org/>

Extension Update

Its Annual Enrollment Time!

Its annual enrollment time. This is how we verify who wants to continue to be in the program. Remember, even if you indicated you want to continue to be included in the Association membership last fall, you will still need to complete the enrollment process to be considered a Master Gardener in good standing. The enrollment process begins January 1 and ends March 31. **Volunteers who do not complete the enrollment process by March 31, 2021 will be considered as no longer participating in the program.**



It is very simple! The next time you log into the Online Reporting System, you will be prompted to review and agree to the conditions of volunteer service and the volunteer behavior agreement. You'll need to complete enrollment prior to volunteer activity. Any volunteer service completed prior to enrollment is ineligible for reporting. Its as simple as logging into the Online Reporting System (ORS), reading the terms, checking the boxes, and logging out. The enrollment process helps ensure a safe experience for you, our partners, and Extension staff. Questions? Troubles logging in? Email Janell! janell.wehr@wisc.edu

Elevate! Recap

Thank you to all who were able to join us on February 2nd for our first ever statewide kickoff event! This was an unprecedented event for the program: over 1,500 volunteers registered and over 800 attended. We're very pleased to have virtually connected with so many of you. I personally found the program uplifting and meaningful, and I hope it empowered all volunteers in knowing, together, we're making lasting impacts in the communities we serve. I strongly encourage everyone to watch the recording if you were unable to attend. And remember, whether you viewed live or recorded, you earned an hour of volunteer service. You'll find it in the Online Reporting System (ORS).



Master Gardener Volunteer Week



Keeping the momentum going, we're excited to announce Master Gardener Volunteer Week, April 5-8. Shout out door prizes will be shared during Volunteer Week on social media. We're also excited to announce two special Continuing Education events on Tuesday, April 6th and Thursday, April 8th. We've also designated Wednesday as "Thank a Master Gardener Day". We're encouraging community members and volunteers to take a moment and let a volunteer know how she or he has made the world a little brighter. Stay tuned for more information!

Congratulations Volunteers!

The Wisconsin Master Gardener Program would like to recognize the following Master Gardener Volunteers for their cumulative hour milestone awards. These all represent significant contributions to your communities.



Jill Becker	250 Hours
Peg Klinkhammer	500 Hours
Barb Herreid	5000 Hours

Onboarding Lite

Starting this year, all **new** volunteers are required to go through our online orientation. Onboarding addresses these requirements:

- Orientation to Extension, the Master Gardener Program, and the scope of being a volunteer.
- Enrollment into the program, including Criminal Background Check, Mandated Reporter Training, and completing the required Conditions of Service.
- Completing the exam with a score of 70% or better.

Starting in April, only MGVs who have enrolled will get access to Onboarding Lite. Onboarding Lite will only include the first bullet point. We are *strongly recommending* ALL MGVs take this course in 2021... and if you complete it, **it will count for your 10 hour Continuing Education requirement!** It's free to current volunteers. Much of it will be familiar to you, as I have been sharing parts of it with you in the past few issues of the newsletter. Feedback so far from the Master Gardener Review Team and new Master Gardener Volunteers has been very positive. Onboarding Lite will be offered between April and December 31st. Stay tuned!

Sneak peak! Onboarding Lite: Master Gardener Program: Project Themes





All programs in the Division of Extension, including the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program, focus our work on identified themes. Volunteer projects can address:

- Supporting healthy and safe food systems
 - **Protecting valued natural resources**
 - Creating healthy and vibrant communities
 - Improving human well-being
- Within each of these themes, we apply the latest unbiased university research-based information to understand and address the situation. Extension also evaluates if and how volunteers make a difference through their activities around these themes.

Protecting valued natural resources: The people of Wisconsin love the outdoors! Extension is one of several state groups and agencies that works to protect our natural resources. Many native plants cannot reproduce without pollinators. Many native insects, birds and other wildlife need native plants as a food source. Invasive plants decrease the diversity of native plants, and this in turn limits habitat availability for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Invasive plants can also adversely impact human health, such as wild parsnip sap causing burns and Japanese barberry infestations hosting higher populations of Lyme Infected deer ticks.

Extension Update (continued)

Our Response: Master Gardener Volunteer activities can improve the motivation and knowledge of participating individuals in the following subjects: pollinator protection, invasive/native animals, insects, and pests, and gardening for climate change.

			
Diagnostic	Educating Others	Gardening	Program Support
Answer gardening questions related to invasive and natives species (plants, animals, insects) and resources (soil, water) preservation.	Provide formal and informal learning experiences related to invasive and natives species (plants, animals, insects) and resources (soil, water) preservation.	Garden in approved public spaces to demonstrate management of invasive and natives species (plants, animals, insects) and resources (soil, water) preservation.	Participate in the administration and facilitation of these activities

All programs in the Division of Extension, including the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program, focus our work on identified themes. Volunteer projects can address:

- Supporting healthy and safe food systems
- Protecting valued natural resources
- **Creating healthy and vibrant communities**
- Improving human well-being
- Within each of these themes, we apply the latest unbiased university research-based information to understand and address the situation. Extension also evaluates if and how volunteers make a difference through their activities around these themes.

Creating healthy and vibrant communities: Cared-for plants and green spaces in our communities have positive social, economic, and environmental benefits, such as aiding in creating walkable streets, attracting shoppers to downtown business areas, and mitigating urban heat islands. These Master Gardener Volunteer projects utilize a Placemaking framework combined with the latest interdisciplinary research on the benefits of plants in order to do meaningful work in communities.

Our Response: Master Gardener Volunteer activities can improve the motivation and knowledge of participating individuals in the following subjects.

- Managing woody plants: Trees and shrubs, when properly cared for, provide environmental, social, and economic benefits to our communities.
- Selecting the right plant for the right place: Proper plant selection for the environment they are to be grown in can reduce chemical inputs for pest management as well as allow for maximum environmental, social, and economic benefits to our communities.

All programs in the Division of Extension, including the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program, focus our work on identified themes. Volunteer projects can address:

- Supporting healthy and safe food systems
- Protecting valued natural resources
- Creating healthy and vibrant communities

- Improving human well-being
- Within each of these themes, we apply the latest unbiased university research-based information to understand and address the situation. Extension also evaluates if and how volunteers make a difference through their activities around these themes.

Improving human well-being: Increased exposure to nature, including plants and gardening activities, can improve the mental, physical, social, and emotional well-being of participating individuals. Nature deficit disorder is a term created to describe the psychological, physical and cognitive costs of human alienation from nature.

Our Response: Master Gardener Volunteer activities can improve the motivation of targeted audiences to go outside and/or improve their interactions with plants.

CE Opportunities

Field to Fork Series

North Dakota State University Extension again will host the Field to Fork Wednesday Webinar series starting in February 2021. Experts from across the region will provide information about growing, processing and serving specialty-crop fruits and vegetables safely in this sixth annual webinar series, which has reached thousands of people.

The Field to Fork Wednesday Weekly Webinars will begin Feb. 10. The webinars will be held online from 2 to 3 p.m. Central time through April 21. They also will be archived for later viewing; however, participating in the “live” webinar allows participants to interact with the presenter.

The webinars are free of charge but preregistration is required. The webinars will be held on Zoom. The Field to Fork website ([https:// www.ag.ndsu.edu/fieldtofork](https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/fieldtofork)) has a link to register for the webinars. Participants will be sent sign-in reminders with the link for viewing. “We are pleased to have Extension faculty from several states providing this learning opportunity for people across the region,” says Julie Garden-Robinson, NDSU Extension food and nutrition specialist. “This has become a collaborative effort with the North Central Region Food Safety Team.” Topics that will be covered are:

- March 10: The Best Vegetable Varieties for 2021 - Tom Kalb, Extension horticulturist, NDSU
- March 17: Weed Control in the Home Garden - Randy Nelson, Extension home horticulture and agriculture production systems educator, University of Minnesota
- March 24: The “Good” Creepy Crawlers in Your Garden - Janet Knodel, professor and Extension entomologist, NDSU
- March 31: Maple Syrup Production - Joe Zeleznik, Extension forester, NDSU
- April 14: Tips for Selling Food Safely at Farmers Markets - Londa Nwadike, food safety specialist, Kansas State University and the University of Missouri

This project is made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service. For more information, visit NDSU Extension’s comprehensive Field to Fork website or contact Garden-Robinson at 701 -231-7187 or julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu.



Extension Update (continued)

International MG Conference 2021- Virtual Event

In 2021, the International Master Gardener Conference will be held virtually. Though a virtual conference was not our original plan, we are excited for this unique opportunity to bring our speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities to even more Master Gardeners at a greatly-reduced cost from attending the in-person event. All sessions will be recorded and available for viewing later. We hope our decision to move to a virtual platform will make the conference more accessible to Master Gardeners near and far.

We are planning a unique and creative virtual conference that will offer not only the chance to attend live webinars and workshops, but also opportunities to socialize with and learn from EMGs from around the nation, to learn about gardening in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to participate in interactive activities such as iNaturalist and social media challenges. [Check the website for more information.](#)



Pesticide Safety

Here is a really good YouTube video: [Home Owner's Guide to Pesticide Safety.](#) The video was produced by Washington State University some time ago, but the concepts are still applicable. If you find it useful, share with friends and family!

Let's Get Green and Growing

Let's Get Green and Growing is a virtual garden conference brought to you by the Columbia County Master Gardeners. Keynote: "Creating a Garden of Four Season Interest- Zannah Crow

Session 1: "Addressing Invasive Species with Citizen Science" - Anne Pearce

Session 2: "Minor Fruits- Major Impact" -- Carol Shirk

Session 3: "Daylilies- The Perfect Perennial" -- Pat Trapp
March 20, 2021 9am-1:35pm

Free and online! [Let's Get Green and Growing Brochure](#)
[Register here!](#)



Growing Healthy Plants, Basics in Plant Disease Management

Learn about common methods for disease control, their pros and cons, and how you can adapt these techniques for use in your own home garden.

Presenter: Brian Hudelson, UW-Madison, March 16, 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Via Zoom Cost: Free
[Register Here!](#)

The Garden Guru: The Importance of Gardening with Native Plants

Garden Guru is a monthly Zoom webinar facilitated by the Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers. Each month features a topic focused on the current season and the needs and interest of attendees. The presenter will also address questions and concerns attendees may have and teach them how to access reliable, research-based information. March 15, 6pm. Online via Zoom. [Register here!](#)

From the Ground Up!

Healthy plants begin with healthy soil. In this interactive web based class, we'll learn the basics of soil texture and how to improve our garden soils. We'll cover the benefits of adding compost to sandy and clay soils, and how to get started with composting this spring. We will also investigate measures to take to protect our garden soil's health.

Presenter: Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator Extension Marathon County Thursday, March 11th, 2:30-3:30pm Cost to attend this program: FREE! This program is hosted by Marathon County Public Library.

Thursday, March 11th 2:30-3:30pm: [Register Here](#)
Thursday, March 18th 7-8pm: [Register Here](#)



Plantsts Plus! Tree ID and History

Continuing Education hours: 2-2.5

One in the Plants Plus Series - a mix of new and past training presentations, printed materials and other references focused on specific plants or topics to help you increase your knowledge so you can better answer gardening questions.

To get 2-2.5 hours of continuing education credit, complete the videos, reading and identify some trees! [This Plants Plus package](#) focuses on tree identification and history.



- Start tomato seeds indoors. Research shows seven-week old transplants produce earliest fruit and best overall results.
- Cut back over-wintered geraniums to six to eight inches.
- Start fast-growing annual flowers indoors.
- Start seedlings of eggplant, okra, peppers and broccoli.
- Set out lily of the valley clumps with pips just even with the ground.
- When annual beds can be worked, turn over green manure crop such as annual rye in beds for annuals and vegetables. If none was planted, top-dress with compost or rotted manure.
- Remove mulch from spring flowering bulb beds.
- Container grown or balled and bur lapped trees and shrubs can be planted at any time during the growing season.
- Divide perennials and pot for the PCMG plant sale by the end of the month. This will provide roots time to get established.
- Prune and fertilize all bush fruits and grapes. Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after ground thaws but before blossoming.
- Plant rhubarb and asparagus as soon as ground can be worked.



Volunteer Hours Recognition for 2020

Because of the pandemic last year, volunteer hours were not required, but could be reported through ORS. Several of our members did continue to volunteer while following the guidelines outlined by the Master Gardener State Programming Office. And, a few achieved milestones. Unfortunately, we won't be able to hold an in-person meeting in March for our traditional awards ceremony . . . BUT . . . we should all recognize the following members for their accumulated volunteer hours:

Jill Becker reached the 250-hour milestone and will be receiving a sports water bottle

Peg Klinkhammer reached the 500-hour milestone and will be receiving a Master Gardener writing pad/portfolio.

Barb Herreid reached the 5,000 hour milestone and will be receiving an award from the State.

Please join me in congratulating them!

What is a Volunteer? A **volunteer** is someone who gives a commitment of time and energy for the **benefit of the community**.

"As a volunteer you give time. Time. The most precious resource in our lives.

Once you give an hour of your time it is lost forever. That hour you just gave volunteering will never be replicated.

Your time volunteering must be valued but we can never put a value on that time. How can you value something that is priceless?

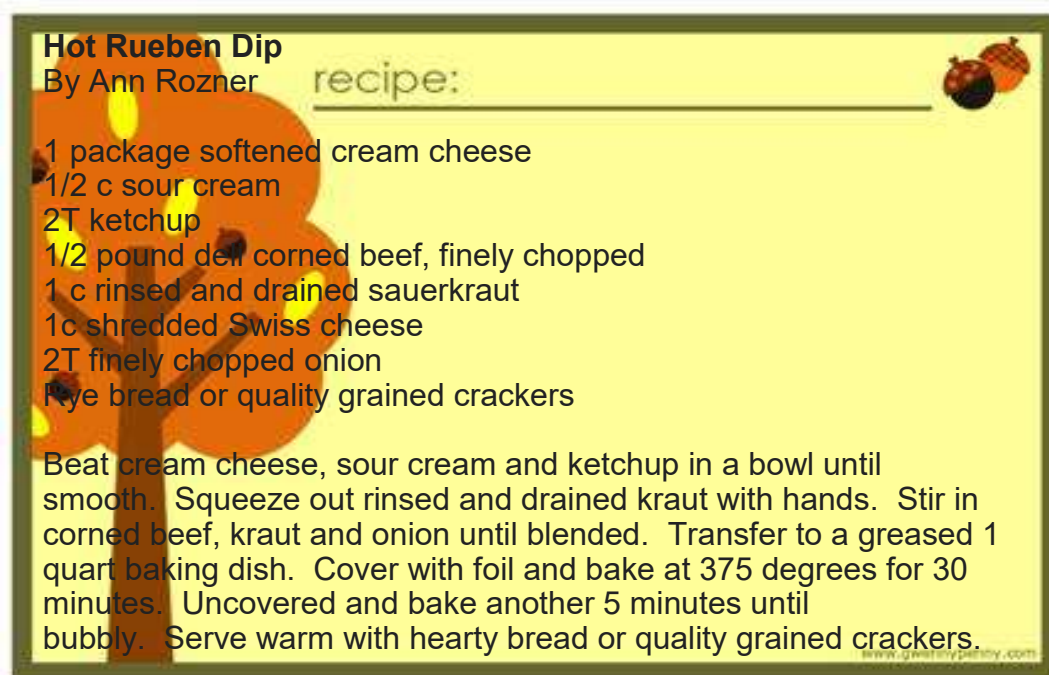
As a volunteer you bring much to this organization. Skills, advice, experience, friendship, vision, leadership, inspiration etc. That you bring. **But time you give**. In our time-poor world, you bear the gift of time. You choose to donate the most precious commodity in the known universe.

We may count your time in numbers. We may attempt to count your time in cash value.

Though such methods have their reasons we will all be poorer if we don't realize that the giving of your time is simply and utterly magnificent.

So today, we take a little time out to thank you for the amazing "time in" that you give.

Truly, thanks for your time!" *(Written and submitted by DJ Cronin)*



Hot Ryebein Dip
By Ann Rozner recipe:

- 1 package softened cream cheese
- 1/2 c sour cream
- 2T ketchup
- 1/2 pound deli corned beef, finely chopped
- 1 c rinsed and drained sauerkraut
- 1c shredded Swiss cheese
- 2T finely chopped onion
- Rye bread or quality grained crackers

Beat cream cheese, sour cream and ketchup in a bowl until smooth. Squeeze out rinsed and drained kraut with hands. Stir in corned beef, kraut and onion until blended. Transfer to a greased 1 quart baking dish. Cover with foil and bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncovered and bake another 5 minutes until bubbly. Serve warm with hearty bread or quality grained crackers.

www.greatmymom.com

**Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting
February 23, 2021 via Zoom with 1 hour education
20 members in attendance and Janell Wehr Horticulture Advisor**

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm by Ruth Cline, President.

Minutes from November 19, 2019: Judy Miller moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Barb Herreid, motion carried.

Financial Report: Barb Herreid reported 2021 budget created with enough funds to limp along without fundraisers. Board approved restricted spending with the same practice as 2020:

*All future expenses **must** have **prior** approval by Barb Herreid, treasurer (copied from May 2020 newsletter).*

If any ideas for future fund raisers, contact Barb Herreid. Two possible: worm castings and bulb sale.

Extension Report:

2021 Education requirement - 10 hrs; Volunteer hrs waived, enter any hours worked in ORS.

Training for MGV changed to online with possible additional face to face 'labs.' Two step process: 1) 'Foundations of Horticulture' online training is open to anyone interested in horticulture; 2) 'Onboarding' online training for those who want to become a MG. Wood County will host 'Foundations of Horticulture' in September 2021 and 'Onboarding' in January 2022.

All current volunteers will be taking Lite Onboarding between April and December 2021; which will count as 10 hours of Education.

Annual enrollment must be completed by March 31st. Must complete before volunteer hours will qualify. Two steps to continue as MG: submitting dues form with WCMGV in November and Annual Enrollment in ORS as state requires. Wording is confusing. Janell Wehr will take concern to State steering committee and WCMGV Board to review wording on dues renewal form.

The information from the WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) about having a license to hold a plant sale does not apply to not-for-profit Master Gardener programs. However, it is still unsure if the State office will allow for plant sales in 2021 due to COVID and Janell Wehr should have an answer in the upcoming weeks.

For 2021 projects, email Janell Wehr with names of MGV who will be working at the project. Janell Wehr to write up process for next newsletter.

Zoom Account: WIMGA grant for \$250 to purchase zoom account and Children's educational materials. Zoom account cost \$150 per year with 9 individual accounts and unlimited attendance and minutes. This would allow for zoom meetings without having to rely on Janell Wehr to set it up. Any suggestions or need for children's educational materials, contact Sue Wilford.

Newsletter: Articles due by March 10th

Monthly Meetings and educational programs set up for next 4 months; every 4th Tuesday to begin at 6pm via Zoom. Karleen Remington will include in next newsletter.

- March 23rd - Barb Herreid - Holland presentation
- April 27th - Donna Streiff - Garden Guru - how to set up presentation
- May 25th - Jackie Carattini (Wood County Human Development and Relationships Extension Educator) - fruits and vogs

June 22nd - Rachael Whitehair (Wood County Natural Resource Educator)

Question raised if meeting was being recorded for those not in attendance. Future meeting could be recorded on YouTube and placed on website, under 'Members Only' tab. Concern about members without computers and how they can obtain this information. Board to discuss further. In past educational meetings were open to the public. Chris Grimes asked about how this could happen with zoom. Marathon County is doing a trial using 2 zoom meeting invites; one invite for the educational presentation and one invite for the membership meeting. Janell Wehr will let us know how it works.

Continued on page 22

2020 WCMGV Board of Directors

President—Ruth Cline
stonegate@tds.net
715-569-4202

Vice President—
Karleen Remington
karleenbobremington@gmail.com
715-387-1863

Secretary—Sue Wilford
swilford@tds.net
715-652-6129

Treasurer—Barb Herreid
bherreid@wctc.net
715-325-2075

Director—Jill Becker
jb5mfl15@gmail.com
715-387-8040

Director—Ann Rozner
annmarisaroegner@yahoo.com
715-435-3804

Director—Pending

Director—Donna Streiff
streiffonclay@tds.net
715-207-6218

Communications Representative
Chris Grimes
chgrimes@wctc.net
715-424-2878

WIMGA Rep—Micky Erickson
GaryMicky@charter.net
715-435-3616

Newsletter Editor
Peg Klinkhammer
WCMGVs@gmail.com
734-787-4630

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 10th of the month.

Public Relations Chair
Pending

Lead time for television and newspaper is four weeks. Call Karen for clarification of dates and deadlines.

Wisconsin Master Gardeners
Website: <http://wimastergardener.org>

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

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

Committees, teams, project leaders, members, BODs, are encouraged to send meeting notices for the column below.

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.

2021 WCMGV Membership Minutes (continued)

Open Positions: South Director on board and Media Publicity. Media Publicity contacts outside media (radio, newspaper, TV) about WCMGV events being sponsored. In past has helped as co-administrator of website. Chris also looking for someone to assist with Facebook and website. Chris Grimes to write up information for March newsletter. Let Ruth Cline know if interested in either position.

Dropped Projects: 5 projects were dropped as WCMGV projects. They are: Pittsville Area Historical Museum, Weber Nature Park, Greenville Town Hall, Wood County Veterans Memorial at the Courthouse and WR Zoo. All clients have been notified. Educational Grants not applied for: WR Children's Festival, Horticulture Center at WR Zoo, Vesper Library and Rome Library.

Motion to adjourn at 7:27pm made by Barb Herreid; seconded by Bea Kohl. Motion carried.

Next Meeting - March 23, 2021 via Zoom
Respectfully Submitted, Sue Wilford, Secretary

After meeting adjourned, discussion about potential speakers for our monthly meetings that had presented at the Garden Expo this past weekend.

Indigenous Agri-Culture by Laura Manthe and Lea Zeise

Facebook page - Ohe*la'ku - Among the Cornstalks

Invasive Jumping Worms by Brad Herrick, Ecologist at UW Madison Arboretum