

## President's Message April 2023

### Plant Sale Focus

Between Covid and jumping worms, the last 3 years caused changes in how we fundraise to support our activities. Right now, our only fundraisers are the two plant sales. A committee of eight is in the midst of planning for a **Spring Sale** which will occur during the **Port Edwards Village Rummage sale on May 20<sup>th</sup>**. Cathy Schutz and her husband have offered their yard again this year, an excellent location. (Thanks Cathy & Doug!) We easily bring in the public by combining this sale with the village wide rummage sale, just like the Fall Sale does by being part of Marshfield's Maple Fall Fest on September 16<sup>th</sup> and the 17th. Our approach is to look at the two sales as part of a whole and how we can coordinate time and efforts for both to make our implementation more efficient and profitable, while still recognizing the unique aspects of each sale.



For the May sale, the plant sale team will purchase a limited number of perennials plants to go along with your donated vegetable starter plants, houseplants, succulents and seeds. Leftover plants can still be nurtured this summer for the September sale or vegetable started plants could be donated to the community gardens.

Our membership is reduced after the last few years. So to have the social events, seminars, etc. that we want, perhaps we can call on family, friends, former members, and neighbors to help us. If you have limited time or space to raise plants, can you ask your friends and family if they can raise them?

Several members have planted winter-sown perennials for the Fall sale when they will be large enough to sell. Houseplants and succulents can also take a lot of time to grow into a marketable size. Please start some of these types of plants now!

We are also looking for bulbs, galvanized containers for fairy gardens/succulents, clean pots, hand tools, garden art, reference materials--you know the drill.

Let the Plant Sale committee know how you can help, whether with plants and donations, or help with setting up or staffing the sale. You will be receiving more information by email that will make it easy to let the committee know what you are able to donate. This helps our planning enormously!

Looking forward to those warm and sunny days of May and how you have used your talents in these last cold dark days! See you soon!

Chris

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# April Meeting Program

## April Program Information

**Dr. Death's Plant Disease Predictions for 2023  
With  
Brian Hudelson  
Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (via Zoom)**

Site: Adler Family Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Marshfield Public Library  
105 South Maple

**New site; MARS is no longer open. Directions below.**

**5:30-7:30 PM**, April 25, 2023

In Person and via Zoom

**Note the time change above.**

**Library closing is 8 PM sharp. Everyone needs to be cleared from the building by that time.**

The snowdrops in my lawn are bravely poking their heads through the crusty snowbanks! At my house that means the real spring is here!

But new plant growth always carries with it a challenge that sometimes things do not always go as we hoped. That could mean plant diseases to deal with. Brian Hudelson of the Plant Diagnostics Clinic in Madison will share his crystal ball with us and predict (probably with a good deal of accuracy) the plant diseases that might rear their ugly heads in the coming season. You won't want to miss his gaze into the future!

**Directions from Wisconsin Rapids via Hwy 186 through Vesper and Arpin:** From Hwy 186 turn left onto Hwy 10. Take exit #183 into Marshfield and onto Veterans Parkway. Follow the parkway (next to the railroad tracks) almost to the center of town. Turn left onto Maple Avenue. Make an immediate left into the parking lot of the Marshfield Library.

**Directions from Pittsville via 73 & 80:** Go through the 3 roundabouts into Marshfield onto Central Avenue. Follow Central Avenue through the business area to Veterans Parkway. Turn Right onto the parkway and then right again onto Maple Avenue. Make an immediate left into the parking lot of the Marshfield Library.

### **Future Confirmed Programs:**

May 23: Renewal Pruning w/Donna Streiff

June 27: Lonely Oak Farm CSA

July 25: Garden Tour w/Joyce Fischer

August 15: MG Summer Picnic w/Local Horticulture Experts

# 2023 Reminders

**The ORS has a new website ink, [ors.wimastergardeners.org](https://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.** **Please do not check the first box at the bottom of the page which will then give WCMGV organization access to your hours for awards purposes.** It is your choice whether or not to check the second box. There is an excellent video on the ORS site right now explaining how to do this. Still have questions? Contact: [wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu).

ORS is now open. If you are finding adding hours confusing, 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. Click on the red "Tutorial Videos" button on the ORS sign-in page. These 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. If you watch all the videos, you can claim **.6** hours of C.E.

Sign in and complete Terms of Acceptance by **May 15** and **get a new name tag!!** Old name tags will not be used after the new ones are received.

If you did not complete Onboarding Lite last year you must do it now to enter hours for 2023. Link to Canvas website where you will find OBL: [University of Wisconsin-Madison Login](#)



**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.

# March Meeting Minutes

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer Association  
General Membership Meeting  
March 28, 2023 6:00 pm  
McMillan Library, Wisconsin Rapids via Zoom

**Program: What's Up with WCMGVA?**

Karleen Remington, Janell Wehr

Total Present: 19 (16 + 3 on Zoom)

## **Business Meeting**

**Call to Order** 6:02 Welcome to new Apprentices.

Chris Grimes

Reminder about resources on our website

- Facebook - Facebook.com/woodcountymastergardener public page: Purpose of this page is not only to highlight activities, promote seminars and fundraisers, and to support UW extension's work, but to present educational features on horticulture using evidence based sources (edu as opposed to most .com sources)
- Facebook – Facebook.com/groups our private page (Not viewable to the public) exists to communicate MG business and information among our membership. You must be invited by sending a request to Chris.
- WCMG website <https://Wood-County-Master-Gardeners.org> also exists to highlight our activities and educate. It includes a members only page, which is password protected. The Members only site has lists of committees, volunteers, project leaders, resources, bylaws, standard practices etc. The monthly Newsletter is also available here

## **Secretary's Report :**

Judy Miller

Review of minutes from Nov. 15, 2022 Motion to accept. M/S/P Schotten/ D.Nickels

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris for Famia Motion to accept as presented M/S/P Remington/Kohl

- Monthly Financial Report:
  - 4 checks written since the last Audit, totaling \$345.70
  - 1 Deposit since last Audit, totaling \$30.00
- Current Balances:
  - Checking Account \$9958.87
  - Savings Account \$1135.89
  - CD \$2036.29 renewed for 13 months @ 3.03% annual yield

## **Extension Report:**

Janell Wehr

Janell explained how her duties have changed. She is available to provide Educational guidance for our group, which means she can provide content and teach us. A Horticulture Class for new MG members will be held in the Fall through Dec. Those members may or may not decide to volunteer in Wood County. Janell is also in charge of Diagnostics for questions that come into the Ex office. She will coordinate the group that responds to horticulture questions. In September, Science By the River will be held again. Janell is looking for anyone interested.

## **WIMGA Report:**

Mickey Erickson

Education Seminar: Mark Dwyer (who previously worked at Rotary Gardens in Janesville), is presenting a seminar on "New and Exciting Annuals" on Ap. 18. You must sign up for the online class. More information can be found in the WIMGA Newsletter.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Programs:

Karleen Remington & Judy Miller

Tuesday, April 25 - 5:30 **Note earlier time!** Marshfield Library "Dr Death's Plant Disease Pre-

# March Meeting Minutes

dictions for 2023” - Presenter: Dr. Brian Hudelson, Director of Diagnostic Services at UWEX Plant Diagnostic Clinic - via Zoom

Tuesday, May 23 – 6:00 “Renewal Pruning” Presenter: Donna Streiff – Marshfield

Tuesday, June 27 – 6:00 Visit the “Lonely Oak Farm” Find out how this CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) works – Milladore – Presenter: Joel Kuehnhold

Tuesday, July 25 – 6:00 Garden Tour” Presenter: Joyce Fischer - Marshfield

Tuesday, August 15 – 6:00 “Fizzles and Sizzles” Presenter: Judy Miller – Alexander Park, Port Edwards

## Works in Progress:

Tuesday, September 26 - TBA

Tuesday, October 24 - TBA

Tuesday, November 14 – Social Event – TBA

## Spring Plant Sale:

Jen Fane & Lil Schotten

- May 20<sup>th</sup> at Cathy Schutz's home in conjunction with Port Edwards Village Rummage Sale
- Posters will be distributed at April meeting
- Lil displayed items to be made to sell.
  - Craft day: Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 10-1:00, maybe May 2 also
  - Lil's home: 2714 Biron Drive East, Wi Rapids, WI (1/2 mile from Anchor Bay Restaurant)
- Slips to advertise Fall Plant Sale will be handed out
- Remember items such as (CLEAN) garden tools, garden art, magazines etc. to donate
- Donation of plants to sell: Washed bulbs, seedlings, house plants, vegetables

## ORS (Online Recording System):

Chris

Each member needs to sign in and agree to Terms and Conditions, and then you may begin to record this year's hours. If you give your permission, our organization will be able to access your hours for eligibility for rewards and for WIMGA to gather data. Please give your permission.

May 15 is the deadline to register, **BUT don't wait that long.** The sooner the better! You will earn a name tag if you sign in by deadline. The old name tags will not be able to be used after that date.

## Social Committees Plans:

Chris, Lil, Cathy

April 29 Spring Event “Tea and Tulips” 9:30 – 11:30 at South Wood County Historical Museum. This event will be advertised to the other Garden Clubs. A food sign up will go around at our next meeting.

## Garden Walk 2024 Committee:

Chris

Planning Committee: Lil Schotten will chair. Think about volunteering. Let Chris or Lil know if you are interested.

**Mentors:** The apprentices have been paired with mentors to earn their volunteer hours.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55. M/S/P Schulein/Remington

**Next meeting:** April 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30—7:45 pm

- Brian Hudelson of UW Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, “Dr Death's Plant Disease Predictions for 2023” via Zoom at Marshfield Library

# Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

## Melinda Myers Free Webinars

### **What's New – Discover New & Unique Plants! Apr 5, 2023 06:30 PM**

Get a sneak peek into this year's new offerings. Melinda will provide selection and care information on some of these new plants plus provide ways you can include them in your garden and landscape.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

### **Growing a Bountiful Harvest even when Time, Space & Budget are Limited Apr 18, 2023**

**06:30 PM** Learn some tips and strategies that will help you harvest the most produce out of your garden. Whether you have a dedicated garden or squeeze fruits, vegetables, and herbs in your landscape wherever space allows, we will help you grow lots of produce no matter your limitations. We will explore products and plant varieties as well as planting and harvesting techniques to help increase your vegetable gardening success!

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Melinda Myers has many recorded program on her website. Go to website [Home :: Melinda Myers](#) and scroll down the right side of the page to the "On Demand" button. Choose the program you want to watch and enter the passcode.

## UW Extension Horticulture

### **Rain Gardens and Pollinator Gardens: Planning, Construction and Native Plants**

**APRIL 3, 2023, 6 – 8PM \$12.00**

Learn about how to properly site and construct rain gardens and pollinator gardens. You will see examples of planting plans and be introduced to resources on rain gardens and in addition, we will review a list of plants that do well in rain gardens and are also attractive to pollinators. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)

### **Strawberries, Raspberries and Blueberries APRIL 10, 2023, 6 – 8PM \$12.00**

We will review proper planting, fertilizing, and pruning these three types of fruit crops. Variety recommendations, insect/disease management and some troubleshooting will be included as well. You will receive electronic copies of Learning Store publications as well as learning about other handy online resources. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)

### **Perennials for Sun and Shade APRIL 17, 2023, 6 – 8PM \$12.00**

Learn about selecting perennials for your garden as well as general care, propagation and maintenance. We will cover herbaceous perennial plants (native and non-native) that will thrive in full sun, part sun, and light, medium and deep shade. We will also discuss plants that tolerate different moisture regimes in sunny and shady environments. (Speaker Lisa Johnson)

Registration for the above three events: [Green Thumb Gardening Spring Series Registration | Eventbrite](#)

## Webinars for WI Gardeners

### **Spotted Lanternfly: an Invasive Insect Knocking on Wisconsin's Door APRIL 26, 2023, 12 – 1PM**

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive insect that was first reported in North America in Pennsylvania in 2014. Since that time, this pest has spread through neighboring states, reaching parts of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. With spotted lanternfly (SLF) poised to appear in Wisconsin, this webinar will cover how to identify this invasive pest, its biology, and management approaches used in areas with established SLF infestations. Presented by: PJ Liesch

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Continued on next page



# Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

## **Understanding Your Garden Soil May 3, 12:00 p.m**

Soil is the foundation for a healthy and productive garden. Join us to learn what soil characteristics are important for gardening. We will also discuss how you can determine organic matter and fertilization needs and how you can improve your garden soil. Presented by Doug Soldat

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

## **Bee Lawns: Using Your Lawn to Provide Food for Pollinators May 9, 12:00 p.m.**

You may have heard of “No-mow May” with the goal of not mowing lawns in May to allow early-season flowers to bloom for pollinators. Because turfgrass alone doesn’t provide food for pollinators, an even more proactive way to provide food resources for pollinators is to intentionally incorporate flowers in your lawn that have the right type of nectar and pollen for bees – a “Bee Lawn.” In this presentation, you will hear from University of Minnesota researcher Kristine Moncada on the research behind bee lawns, about the best bee lawn plant species, how to establish and maintain bee lawns, and much more.

Registration: [https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_c\\_kr0iu4SaSbbFR4M5j9PQ](https://uwmadison.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c_kr0iu4SaSbbFR4M5j9PQ)

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 \(wisc.edu\)](#)

## **The Science (and Art) of Plant Disease Diagnosis April 26 6:30-8:30pm**

Learn about the fascinating and complex process involved in identifying plant diseases. Learn about how to visually assess for plant disease symptoms, as well as about the range of lab tests that are often needed to confirm the identity of plant diseases. They will still be recorded for viewing later. To register:

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

**April Garden Guru topic is “Planning and Planting Your Gardens” April 10 6pm**  
**Everett Roehl Memorial Library You Tube site or live at the library**

See next pages for other educational programs.



# GROWING DAHLIAS

**Thursday, April 20, 2023**

**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Northcentral Technical College**

Wausau Campus

**Cost: \$10**

*offered in partnership with*

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN  
**MASTER  
GARDENERS** 

Join us for a fun class of learning all about dahlias!

Learn an overview of the types, forms, sizes and colors of dahlias. Dahlias are garden flowers that produce spectacular blooms and showcase a variety of colors, and are magnets for pollinators.

**Topics Covered:**

- “Waking up” tubers
- Planting and summer care
- Digging, dividing and storing of dahlias



**Learn More + Register Here:**

<https://bit.ly/growing-dahlias>

**CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION:**



715.803.1646



ce@ntc.edu

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# GROWING HERBACEOUS ORNAMENTALS

## FREE PROGRAM

April 13, 2023

6-7:30pm

Mosinee High School

Hosted by

Mosinee Community Education

Register at 715-693-2550 ext 3696

or

[mpozorski@mosineeschools.org](mailto:mpozorski@mosineeschools.org)



Extension

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Wausau Area Funeral Care Presents:

**Spices of Life**



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# Horticulture Therapy

Learn how to plant and care for your own herbs at home & how gardening helps manage grief.

Class co-facilitated by Janel Wehr Horticulture Educator from UW-Madison Extension (Marathon County) and WAFH Aftercare.

**WHEN: Tuesday, April 25th, 2023**

**1:30-2:30 PM**

**WHERE: 212 River Dr. Wausau - UW Extension  
(rm#5)**

**Limited Seating**

**please RSVP by April 18th to save your spot.**

Christine Jones - Helke Funeral Home After Care Call: (715) 842-3993 email: [christine@wausaucares.com](mailto:christine@wausaucares.com)

Mary Jarvis - Brainard Funeral Home After Care Email: [mary@wausaucares.com](mailto:mary@wausaucares.com) call: (715) 845 - 5525



# Plant Sales Update

## Plant Sale News!

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## Plant Sale News!

### Reminders for the Spring Plant Sale:

- Start vegetable and annual plants.
- Ask friends, neighbors and scour your supplies for : Accessories, Art, Bird/Butterfly related, Pots, Books/Magazines, Bulbs/Rhizomes, Colored Bottles, Décor, Houseplants, Perennials, Seeds, Seed Starting Supplies, Succulents, Tools, Vegetable Starter plants and Yard items.
- Share our publicity posters (coming soon) on your social media, emails to family & friends, or post them at work.
- When going to garage sales, if you see quality, yet inexpensive gardening related items purchase them to donate to the sale.
- Know of a good sale on potting soil, etc. Pass it on.
- If you have supplies like colored printing paper, ribbon to tie dry arrangements with or plant tags that you no longer need, give them to the association. This lets the association save money to put towards other events.
- Help with the craft workshops
- 

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20th 10:00 am -1:00 pm** (I'll sponsor a light lunch)

Lil's home

2714 Biron Drive East

Wi Rapids, Wi

(1/2 mile from Anchor Bay Restaurant)

**MAY 2nd 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm** (if project work remains)

Lil's home

2714 Biron Drive East

Wi Rapids, Wi

(1/2 mile from Anchor Bay Restaurant)

**RSVP Lil or Judy dates/times you are able to make it.**

Check your home for these craft supplies, not a lot really will be needed but variety is the spice of life they say:

- wine corks
- old silverware (forks only)
- thin jute/twine
- 1/4 -3/8" ribbon any color, pattern or cotton fabric which could be torn into strips
- super glue
- old golf balls
- golf tees
- bright red spray paint
- bright yellow spray paint
- black craft paint (suitable for outdoors)
- flat rocks variety of sizes for painting
- permanent markers for writing on cork, rocks (various width)

# Plant Sales Update

- Watch for and harvest these plants that are great for our dried arrangement this summer.
  - hydrangeas - ANY - ALL - large - small
  - penstemon - One variety is Husker Red. There are others. The full name is Husker Red Foxglove Beardtongue. Grow in full sun for the most color.
  - anise hyssop - also called blue giant hyssop - in mint family
  - liatris
  - baptisia seed pods
  - any grasses, eliminating any that are too far into dropping seeds
  - bluestem grass, Carl Forester
  - chive flowers
  - blackberry lily
  - small amounts of goldenrod, not yet gone to seed
  - cone flowers that have started to dry, in various stages of drying
  - blue/purple lavender
  - Chinese lanterns
  - boneset, not too far gone
  - JoePye, not too far gone
  - Also look for oddities like Goldenrod infected with galls. Here you have a straight stem plant with a nickel size ball growth bisecting the stem.
- Winter sowing update:
  - Once the snow melts, make sure the soil in the jugs remains moist
  - Check for the start of new growth
  - As the weather warms begin to vent the jugs more by removing some of the tape
  - Don't be discouraged if you don't see growth right away. Some natives are slow to start growing.
  - If you are growing mostly shade plants, move them to a shady location if weather suddenly turns hot.
  - When plants have two sets of true leaves, transplant to individual pots-probably won't be necessary until May or June.
- Continue to scout garage sales, etc. for garden articles for fall sale.
- Divide/start succulents and houseplants for sale this spring or when they are a little bigger in the fall.

## **Do Now If You Have the Information or as Soon as Possible**

**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.**

Members that are on either plant sale committee:  
Ann Rozner, Bea Kohl, Cathy Schutz, Diane Nickel, Donna Streiff, Jen Fane,  
Jill Becker, Jim Nickel, Judy Miller, Karlene Remington and Lil Schotten.



# Calendar of Events

**Apr. 10 Garden Guru “Planning and Planting Your Gardens” ERMPL in person or the ERMPL You Tube website (click on LIVE button)**

[Garden Guru: Basic Garden Planting and Planning - YouTube](#)

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

**Apr. 20 Dahlia Seminar NCTC 6-8pm**

**Apr. 25 Membership meeting ERMPL Marshfield 5:30pm**

**Apr. 29 Tea and Tulips Social at Wood County Historical Museum WR**

**May 12 Caravan to Terri Gears' Greenhouses at Plainfield and Wild Rose**

**May 19-20 Spring Plant Sale date in Port Edwards**

**Sept. 15-17 Tentative dates of fall plant sale**



Wishful thinking!!

## 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!

# ROME GARDEN CLUB SCHEDULE 2023

The Rome Garden Club meets at the Rome Public Library once a month on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. from April through October. Each month, a learning session will be shared followed by an hour of working in the library gardens to keep them beautiful. Please bring your gloves and tools if you can help.

Some sessions require pre-registration.

All are welcome to attend and sessions are free to the public.

**April 12, 2023: 9:00-10:30. Learning how to make Seed Tape.** This session will teach you how to make seed tape for those very tiny seeds that are so hard to plant. Please bring a tweezers if you have one. Pre-registration is required and limited to 12 participants. Presented by Jennifer Fane, MGW.

**May 10, 2023: 9:00-10:00. Gardening in Small Spaces.** Square Foot Gardening and Straw Bales. Discussion led by Master Gardener Volunteers.

**June 14, 2023: 9:00-10:30. Plant your own Patio Tomato.** Take home a tomato in a pot for your deck or patio. We will meet outside behind the library. Please bring planting tools, gloves, and a large pot. We will have some pots available if needed. Pre-registration is required and limited to 12 participants. Project led by Master Gardener Volunteers.

**July 12, 2023: 9:00-10:30. Herbs.** This session focuses on growing herbs and ways to use them in cooking and enriching your life. Discussion led by Master Gardener Volunteers.

**August 2, 2023: 9:00-11:00. Preserving Harvested Foods.** Becky Gutzman, a retired nutrition educator and food preservation specialist for UW-Extension, will be discussing safe ways to preserve the foods you have harvested. Pre-registration is required.

**September 13, 2023: 9:00-10:30. Collecting Seeds from Library Garden Flowers.** We will focus on seeds, saving, winter sowing, recognizing when seeds are ready to collect, when to plant in spring, etc. Discussion led by Master Gardener Volunteers.

**October 18, 2023: 9:00-10:30. Lesson on Sprouting and Microgreens.** Participants will take home a sprout jar and a microgreen tray that they make in class. Pre-registration is required and limited to 12 participants. Led by Jennifer Fane, Master Gardener Volunteer. Everyone is welcome to stay after the session and help put the Library Gardens to bed for the winter.

Lester Public Library of Rome  
1157 Rome Center Dr, Nekoosa, WI 54457  
Ph: 715-325-8990



# April Garden Guide

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

## April Garden Guide

- 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.
- 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.
- Remove rose cones when soil thaws. Gradually remove soil mound from around rose plants.
- Remove any stems and seedpods left standing for winter interest. Stack out of sight to allow any hibernating pollinators and beneficial insects a chance to exit. Then chop and compost in mid summer.
- Take a soil test in new and struggling gardens as soon as the snow melts and soil thaws.
- Those in colder climates can finish planting tender bulbs, such as dahlias, caladiums, cannas, and elephant ears indoors for earlier flowering and foliage outdoors this summer.
- Continue monitoring for and protecting plants from animal damage. Tender spring growth makes good meals for rabbits and deer.
- Put plant supports in place as perennials that require staking emerge from the ground to prevent them from flopping.



## 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>

**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