

President's Message July 2024

Clicking through the news headlines, my eye caught one that said “ Gardening has Great Mental and Physical Health Benefits”. The arthritis in my spine might argue with you, but study after study has established that statement to be true. Gardeners overall have improved mental and physical health as evidenced by better balance, strength, dexterity, diet, cognitive function, and social interactions, with decreased depression, anxiety, and stress. Besides the obvious physical stimulation, it seems that collaboration with other gardeners, as in Master Gardening or Community Gardening, fosters a sense of community and friendships as we work on shared goals. All that leads to a better quality of life.



Later this month, we have another opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise with the patrons of our Garden Walk, who may be inspired by what they see and hear to take one step in a new gardening direction....and into the benefits that gardening can provide. What a privilege to be involved in that! We'll looking to have a fun, informative, productive day on [July 20](#), but we can still use your help in promoting the Garden Walk on social media or bulletin boards around town, by emailing friends and family, and by selling tickets. Please reach out me or Lil Schotten, GW chairwoman, for questions. Happy, Healthy Gardening!

July Meeting Information p.2
May Meeting Minutes p. 3
June Meeting Minutes p. 4
Educ Offerings for C E p. 5-10
WIMGA Corner p. 10
Project Spotlight of the Month p.11

Project Updates p. 12
Garden Walk p. 12
Fall Plant Sale Buzz p. 13
Central Wi State Fair p. 14
June Road Trip Pictures p. 15
Calendar of Events p. 16
Help Needed p. 16
July Garden Guide p. 17

May Meeting Minutes

Wood County Master Gardener Association

General Membership Meeting

May 28, 2024 6:00 pm

Carolyn Schulein's home – Marshfield

Program: Tour of Carolyn's garden Total Present: 18 present (No Zoom)

Business Meeting: Called to order 6:59 by President Chris Grimes.

Secretary's Report: (J Miller) Minutes from April 23, 2024 were without corrections or additions. It will be put on file.

Treasurer's Report: (F Marx) Written report from Famia. Report reviewed and put on file.

WIMGA: Karleen urged us to think of what we do in regard to education throughout the year, within our projects. WIMGA Grants can be proposed to help fund costs. See May WIMGA newsletter for suggestions on how past money was used. Applications are due directly to WIMGA October 1

Old Business:

Program changes June 25 monthly meeting. Previous speaker could not make our meeting date. Deb Rokke will host a tour at the Lester Library in Rome project garden. Since our usual date of the 4th Tuesday in August is not during the Fair this year, we are looking to have our meeting/picnic then, instead of previously stated August 13. Program committee will confirm availability of Vesper park site for our regular meeting date. Socialization committee is then planning an outing to Hancock Research Station Open House on August 15 followed by dinner at Two Lakes Supper Club.

Spring Plant Sale report: (M Erickson & J Becker) Scaled down a bit, but went well with profit of \$1167. Sale traffic was less than last year, possibly due to fewer other sales in the neighborhood or the major road construction. We had to purchase bedding plants instead of having them donated, but Tender Shoots gave a reduced price. Remaining plants will be donated to MG affiliated community gardens. Bake sale went well. Jill requests help to choose plants for the Fall Sale.

Garden Walk: (Lil) Next meeting is Monday, June 3 at 10:00 at McMillan Library in Rapids. Lil gave us an update. Tickets are being sold. Lil has tickets available for members to sell. A sign-up sheet was passed around for help on the day of, Sat, July 20.

Socialization: Jurustic Park – Tuesday, June 11 – carpool from WR – lunch – 2:00 class to create succulent gardens at Urban's near Rudolph.

New Business:

Name designation clarification: (Chris) The title we use to introduce ourselves should no longer include the word "volunteer" or "Wood County". Instead, you are a "Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener volunteering with (fill in the blank with the ORS organization you are working with at the time)". If you are doing WCMGA sponsored work (committee work, fundraising work, community education work, etc) you are a "Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener volunteering with Wood County Master Gardener Association". Our official name in our bylaws has always been "Wood County Master Gardener Association", so our documents and communication going forward will be that and references such as WCMGVA, MGV, etc will be removed. Refer to Onboarding in Canvas "Using the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Title"

Project Spotlight: (Donna Streiff & Carolyn Schulein) Marshfield Community Gardens were started in 2009 in conjunction with a Marshfield Clinic program called Healthy Lifestyles Coalition. A group of volunteers with the support of 3 churches and the Marshfield Community Foundation keep this project operating after Clinic support ceased. Currently there are 80 beds, 4 X 8 each, for \$20 apiece. Organic and square foot gardening is encouraged and Master Gardeners are available to advise. Financial support from WCMGA through the years is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Program: Marshfield Library Bee Night is June 26. Janell will present a program focused on pollinators. She is asking for members to save 6 inch deep cans for participants to make mason bee houses. A couple more volunteers could be used. Contact Donna Streiff.

Adjournment: M/S/P to adjourn at 8pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, Lester Library of Rome 6pm

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Miller, Secretary

June Meeting Minutes

Wood County Master Gardener Association

General Membership Meeting

June 25, 2024 6:00 pm

Lester Library - Rome

Program: Tour of Library Gardens – Deb Rokke

Total Present: 17 + 5 visitors

Business Meeting: Called to order 7:09 by President Chris Grimes.

Secretary's Report: (J Miller) Minutes from May 28, 2024 were without corrections or additions. They will be put on file.

Treasurer's Report: (F Marx) Written report from Famia. Report reviewed and put on file.

WIMGA: (K. Remington) Nothing new. Reviewed name usage and no use of "volunteers". Suggestion to apply for educational grant to cover cost of updated signage for projects. Diane/Jim will check with Wis Rapids Sign Co to find out cost. Chris will poll project chairs for signage needs. Requests for signs due to Chris by Sept. 1.

Old Business: Fall Plant Sale – (J Becker) Jill would like a committee to work on the Fall AND Spring sale. Chris will send out memo to recruit members and decide tasks and frequency of meetings. "Save the Date" flyers were distributed. Reminder to put in envelope so clients can just take a slip.

Garden Walk: (Chris) Everyone is encouraged to share our email flyer with friends.

There are still 2 slots to be filled on the Helper Signup for Garden Walk, July 20th. Next important meeting is Mon, July 1 at 10:00.

Socialization: (Chris) Thursday, August 15, 4-7 Research Station Open House - Hay Wagon ride – Professors present info/Dinner at Two Lakes after the tour. Spouses invited – RSVP needed from members.

New Business: Central Wisconsin State Fair Booth at Marshfield – Tuesday, August 20th- Sunday, 25th. Sign-up sheet set up for 3 1/2 hour shifts to man booth. Workers are given a free pass and parking spot for volunteering. Passes will be handed from one worker to another.

Project Spotlight: Judy presented some history on Edgewater Haven Sensory Garden since it's start in 2007. The use of both annuals and perennials fill the raised beds and ground beds. It has filled its' mission to serve as a place of comfort and interest to many residents and visitors over the years. The WCMGA has been integral in keeping this project up and running. Come SEE at our next meeting.

Adjournment: M/S/P to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 23 – 6:00 pm - Edgewater Haven Sensory Garden – Judy Miller and Karen Schirek

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Miller, Secretary

July Meeting Information

EDGEWATER GARDEN TOUR

**With Wood County Master Gardener Judy Miller
& Her Project Committee**

Edgewater Haven Skilled Care Center

1351 Wisconsin River Drive

Port Edwards

6 to 9 PM, Tuesday, July 23, 2024

In-person Meeting Only

Judy Miller and her project committee will share their experiences in maintaining the gardens at the Edgewater Haven Skilled Care Center in Port Edwards. A garden environment that assists with healing and long term care has different requirements that need to be considered for the residents. We will learn how Judy and her project committee work to enhance the lives of the people who live at Edgewater.

Directions to 1351 Wisconsin River Drive

From Marshfield: Check your directions for our March meeting at Alexander House in Port Edwards. Edgewater Haven is 2 blocks from Alexander House on Wisconsin River Drive

From Wisconsin Rapids: Wisconsin River Drive to Edgewater at 1351 Wisconsin River Drive

Bring a lawn chair for an outdoor meeting if the weather is nice. If the weather does not make us happy or the mosquitoes are biting, we do have the option of meeting inside the Edgewater facility

Upcoming Programs

August 27: Potluck Picnic at Vesper Park (Note that the date has been changed to our usual 4th Tuesday meeting date)

September 24: Allison Madison from Saltwise WI. Location: TBD

October 22: Easy Care Houseplants with Famia Marx. Location: TBD

November: Horticulture Research with Donna Streiff. Location: TBD

Just a reminder that if you know of anyone who would like to take the MG Basic Training, the registration is open now.

- Call 715-421-8440 for the local course to be held Monday nights in Marshfield from Sept. 9 to Nov. 25. Cost is \$125
- The state online course, at your own pace, is from Sept. 8 to Dec. 7. Cost is \$299 until Aug. 12, and \$325 from Aug. 13 to Aug. 29. Need based scholarships available until Aug. 12. Optional costs: Hard copy of the manual \$33, optional online labs \$40. Electronic copy of manual included in course fee. Call 608-262-2451 or email registrations@pyle.wisc.edu.

Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

UW Extension Horticulture [Wisconsin Horticulture – Division of Extension](#)

The Role of Moths in Our Ecosystems Wednesday, July 24, Noon–1 p.m.

It's National Moth Week!

What exactly are moths, and how do they fit into the landscape? Join us to learn about the general life history of moths and the evolutionary and ecological relationships between moths and plants using several native Midwest moth species. This presentation hopes to shatter an ecological conundrum: Moths are neither good nor bad. Moths just are.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

From the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic The Clinic will sponsor a Zoom presentation on a plant disease-related topic each month. To register for one or more talks, go to [2024 PDDC Monthly Disease Talk Registration Form | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic \(wisc.edu\)](#)

Ten Diseases of Native Plants (and Non-Natives, Too) July 24, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Description Learn about common diseases of plants that are native to Wisconsin. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them. [2024 PDDC Monthly Disease Talk Registration Form | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic \(wisc.edu\)](#)

Ask the Experts 1-2pm Select Mondays

Join our monthly online programs in 2024 for an opportunity to connect with plant health experts from the UW-Madison Division of Extension. Each session, held on Monday afternoons from 1:00-2:00 pm. is your chance to ask questions about your trees and shrubs, garden vegetables and ornamentals, and lawns. July 22 registration link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Save the Date!

Keep these in mind for your August calendar. Spouses, partners, and friends are invited to both.

Hancock Agricultural Research Station Open House/Tour

Followed by dinner at Two Lakes Supper Club

Guided tour will also probably qualify for continuing education

Thursday, August 15.

4pm- 6:30ish for the tour, then dinner

August Meeting and Picnic/Potluck

Vesper Park

Tuesday, August 27

6pm

Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

Jumping Worm Prevention and Best Management Practices

As gardeners when working in our yards we want to keep our plants healthy. So, we plant the right plant, tree or shrub in the right place. Continuous care means keeping an eye open for pests, diseases and plants that start to crowd out others. We certainly want to avoid problems by mistakenly introducing weed seeds, a pest or jumping worms and/or cocoons in materials brought to our gardens, including that new plant someone gave you. In the June article on jumping worms, you were given insight on their identification, life cycle and how to test for them. This article will discuss prevention and best management practices from various universities and research organizations.

Please Keep in Mind these Key Points:

- People spread worms/cocoons without realizing it. JW egg cases (cocoons) can be in soil, mulch, plants, landscaping equipment and in even the treads of shoes and tires. One cocoon or worm is enough to infest a garden.
- Currently adults die during Wisconsin freezing winters, their cocoons do not.
- When soil temperatures reach 10°C/50°F hatching starts (April/May) and continues into Oct. In 60 to 90 days adults lay eggs/cocoons to start the cycle again. Some adults have two cycles.
- Know where your potting soil, mulch, compost, comes from. If possible, find out if it is free from or has been treated for contaminants. If you cannot confirm the source is jumping worm-free, only purchase or trade mulch, compost, and soil that has been heated to appropriate temperatures and duration following protocols for reducing pathogens (104 - 130° F for three days is sufficient). Solarization method obtaining this temperature will destroy **jumping worm cocoons**. Juvenile and adult worms can be killed much easier and in a shorter period of time.
- The preferred method for transplanting is by seeds, propagation, purchased bare root or clean a plant to its bare root. (It is important to solarize both the soil and water used to clean the plant, so as to not transfer jumping worm cocoons to other areas)



Common Practices stated in resources from Univ. of MN, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Univ. of N.H. extension, Ontario and WI DNR.

Develop a routine:

- Be able to recognize and identify invasive jumping worms and their soil signature.
- Follow practices that prevent the transference of invasives, diseases, and contaminated materials and plants. (Use rubbing alcohol 70% concentration to clean tools)
- Clean compost, soil debris from vehicles, personal gear (clothing, boot treads), equipment, gardening tools) before moving to another site. Anything larger than a poppy seed may contain cocoons. When working with companies that will be on your land ask them to have clean machinery, equip-

ment, etc. upon arrival and leaving.

- * **ALSO** - Check your property periodically for jumping worms. Hint, check underneath potted plants. Pull a rake through your leaf layer, mulch, compost, and flip over to look underneath.

All Plants – whether sharing, receiving or moving plants, investigate the plant, its roots and the soil for jumping worms or cocoons before planting. Many sources recommend to carefully remove all soil, then rinse roots to minimize jumping worm spread. “Removing the soil from the roots not only removes any cocoons, but also pests and weeds. Rinsing the roots will also hydrate the plant while you are potting. When removing soil, be careful as this also may remove small root hairs that are the most active part of the roots.

- * **Note:** The rinse water may have cocoons, so be cognizant of what you do with the water as well as the soil you removed.
- * Store potted plants in an area that is off the soil to prevent jumping worms from leaving/getting into pot. If using a non-permeable fabric keep pots away from the edges. Later re-check the pot for any possible cocoons that have hatched since potting. Review the life cycle chart for hatching and adult activity.
- * Eradicate small populations (when practical) by euthanizing jumping worms in rubbing alcohol and solarizing cocoons, soil, etc. under plastic per temp. & time requirements.
- * Report jumping worm observations to your state department of natural resources or local cooperative extension.
- * Do not buy or use jumping worms for bait or vermicomposting.

Solarization. Cocoons and worms do not survive temperatures that exceed 105°F.

- Use a cheap clear plastic painter’s drop cloth to make a solarizing package.
- On any sunny day from May to September, lay out 10-15 feet of plastic in a sunny location.
- Pile compost, soil, or mulch onto a plastic sheet, keeping an even depth of 6-8 inches. Make sure the compost, soil, or mulch does not reach the edge of the plastic. Leave about 8” of open plastic around the outer edge for folding.
- Lay a second sheet of plastic over the pile and make sure there is plenty of extra plastic beyond the sides of the pile.
- Tuck the top sheet of plastic under the outer edges of the pile. Then bring up the bottom sheet edges over the top sheet and secure with duct tape or small weights such as stones; this traps escaping worms.
- A package like this in full sun will reach temperatures of up to 150°F, killing all stages of the worms and pathogens. Leave for three (3) days.

There are currently no controls or pesticides to stop Jumping Worms once they are in a garden or natural area. Early detection and rapid response are critical. You can make a difference!

Use the mustard test to identify and count the earthworms on your property. Please note: this method 1- is unlikely to harm most plants, 2- only detects worm presence, will not control them.

Watch this video on the mustard process. <https://wormwatch.d.umn.edu/research/research-methods/sampling-earthworms>

All events will be led by Master Gardener Educators & take place at the Lester Public Library of Rome

ROME GARDEN CLUB 2024 EVENTS



APRIL 24TH, 2024
9:30-11AM

CUTTING BACK & DIVIDING NATIVE GRASSES

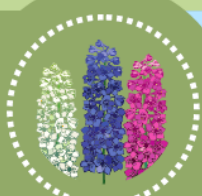
Discussion | Hands-On



MAY 8TH, 2024
9:30-11:30AM

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Discussion | Led by Becky Gutzman, Retired UW-Extension Educator



JUNE 12TH, 2024
9:30-11AM

DIVIDING & SHARING PERENNIALS

Discussion | Group Share | Hands-On | Led by Jennifer Fane



JULY 10TH, 2024
9:30-11:30AM

MAKE & TAKE STEPPING STONES

Hands-On | Registration Required | Led by Laurie Francis & Robert Stoldt



AUG. 14TH, 2024
9:30-11AM

NATIVE SHADE PLANTS

Discussion | Led by Barb Herreid



SEPT. 11TH, 2024
9:30-11:30AM

LAWN CARE FOR SANDY SOILS

Presentation | Discussion | Led by Janelle Wehr, UW-Extension Educator



OCT. 9TH, 2024
9:30-11AM

GROWING GARLIC & WALKING ONIONS

Discussion | Hands-On | Registration Required | Led by Jennifer Fane

Fruitful Plant Diseases



The 2024 field season is in full swing, and samples have been coming into the clinic at a breakneck pace. As I think about the samples that have been submitted thus far, I'm struck by how many fruit samples I've looked at. Here's a summary of the fruit diseases I've been seeing.

Apple scab

Wow! In my (almost) 26 years in the clinic, I've never seen a year as good for apple scab as 2024. We've had perfect weather for an apple scab epidemic. We had substantial rains around the time that trees were first leafing out, and this is the optimal time for initial infections to occur via spores released from apple and crabapple leaf litter. These early rains also prevented people from being able to make protective fungicide applications to their apples and crabapples (if they were so inclined). We continued to have rains throughout the spring, and that provided the leaf wetness needed to allow additional infections to occur via spores that were produced from the initial infections. I have received so many calls and received so many samples from clients complaining that their apple and crabapple leaves are turning blotchy and brown, and then falling from trees. This is virtually all due to apple scab. Expect to see more leaf loss as we head into the summer.

Cedar-apple rust

On apple and crabapple trees that haven't defoliated due to apple scab (i.e., that are resistant to that disease), I have been seeing a lot of yellow/orange spotting. This includes one of the crabapples in my front yard. This spotting is caused by one of the Gymnosporangium rusts, most likely cedar-apple rust. Cedar-apple rust is a fungal disease, where the pathogen spends part of its life on junipers (where it produces a brown, brain-like galls that sprout bright orange, gelatinous growths) and part of its life cycle on apples and crabapples where it leads to yellow/orange leaf spots. I received several photos of the gelatinous juniper phase of this disease in mid-spring. We had a lot of rain around that time, so I'm not surprised to now see a lot of leaf spotting. Watch your apples and crabapples for this disease, and if you happen to see a variant where the spotting is red/fuchsia rather than yellow/orange, give me a shout and send me some photos. You could be dealing with a new Gymnosporangium rust (red star rust) that recently has been found in Wisconsin. I'm attempting to track this disease, so if you're in a county where red star rust has not been formally confirmed, I'll ask you to send in a leaf sample for testing.

Fire blight

I talked about this disease in my May web article (Wisconsin's Wild Weather Woes), so check out that article for details. As I predicted, I've been seeing an uptick in the number of cases of fire blight in 2024. My most interesting fire blight cases have been on quince, a fruit crop that I rarely see.

Taphrina diseases

I have seen three of these diseases so far this season, caused by three different species of the fungus *Taphrina*. Two of the diseases have been on stone fruits. Peach leaf curl (caused by *Taphrina deformans*) leads to distorted (sort of bubbly-looking) and typically colorful (creamy white, light green, or pink) areas on peach and nectarine leaves. Plum pockets (caused by *Taphrina pruni*) affects plum fruits causing them to become enlarged and hollow. Early in the development of this disease, the fruits are spongy, but they eventually dry and become brittle. Finally, I've seen oak leaf blister (caused by *Taphrina caerulescens*), where the fungus leads to irregular, puckered areas on leaves. Management of severe cases of peach leaf curl and plum pockets (you can just ignore oak leaf blister) often involves making an application of a copper-containing fungicide to branches (where the fungus overwinters) after leaf drop in the fall or before leaf emergence in the spring.

Bacterial canker

You can think of this disease as being the "fire blight" of stone fruits (i.e., cherry, plum, peach, apricot). The bacteria involved in this disease can infect through flowers causing them to wither and

die. This phase of the disease is often referred to as blossom blast. On branches and trunks, the pathogens often gain entry via wounds (e.g., cold injured tissues, pruning wounds), and you will typically see blobs of sap oozing from the infected areas. These blobs can range from large and obvious to small, subtle, and nondescript. Aggressive and timely pruning of infected branches is critical for management of this disease. Pruning will prevent movement of bacteria into the main trunk, which will ultimately lead to tree death.

Root/crown rots

I can see these diseases on virtually any fruit crop, but my most recent case was on raspberries. The client complained that his raspberries were stunted and had purplish foliage, two symptoms that I often associate with root/crown rots on raspberry. I tested root/crown tissue from his plants for *Phytophthora* and sure enough, the plant tested positive. *Phytophthora* (a type of fungus-like water mold) is the most common organism that I see causing root/crown rot issues on raspberries. It produces thick-walled resting spores that can survive for years in the soil and becomes particularly active and problematic when soils are wet. Unfortunately, there are few management options for home raspberry growers because of how aggressive this pathogen is and how long it can survive in a garden. My typical recommendation is to establish a new raspberry patch in a new location with new plants.

Hopefully, your fruit crops are healthy and growing well, but if not please contact me at (608) 262-2863 or pddc@wisc.edu for advice. For more information on plant diseases in general and their management, be sure to check out the UW-Madison PDDC website (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>). To keep up to date on clinic activities and resources, follow the PDDC on Facebook or Twitter (@UWPDDC), or subscribe to the clinic's listserv, UWPDDCLearn (by emailing or phoning the clinic to subscribe).

WIMGA Corner

REMINDER: We no longer use the word “volunteers” when we mention our organizational name. See my June column for the rationale.

REMINDER: WIMGA is planning more online continuing education opportunities beginning in the fall. Two that are in process are **Growing Herbs** (September) and **Shade Plants** (October).

REMINDER: Check OnBoarding Lite through the **Volunteer Vibe** newsletter that you recently received. There are policy updates concerning the MG program that we all should be familiar with. You can access our CANVAS classroom from the **Vibe** website.

REMINDER: Be mindful of the educational grants that WIMGA awards each year. Think in terms of your current project or activity and how you and your committee might develop an educational component or enhance some education that already exists. If you need to review how the grant program works and the grant amounts that can be applied for, go back to my WIMGA article in our local May newsletter. The WIMGA website can also help with details.

Let Chris or me know if you plan to write a grant proposal. We can only submit 3 proposals. They must be for different amounts. Feel free to review an idea with us if you are unsure. I can provide some assistance with the writing. Don't wait to get started when the October deadline looms.

A SUGGESTION: Find the May issue of the WIMGA newsletter that recently came and read about the children's education activity sponsored by the North Central MG'ers (Marathon County) at their plant sale. It reminded me of the sunflower seed activity we used to do at the children's festivals. Simple but a good intro to children in the garden. Karleen Remington

Project Spotlight of the Month

Lester Library of Rome

The library garden was started by WCMG charter members Chris Landowski and Pat Welch in 2002 with the planting of native plants in front of the building. Over the years, the library has expanded more than once, requiring moving of plants and redesigns of the beds. That first garden remains, but now a native prairie garden borders a patio in the back of the building. Originally planted by seed, it is now self sustaining. A rain garden, also in the back yard, helps to manage water runoff from the building. A stacked raised garden is an innovative way to grow a large variety of herbs on a small footprint. A straw bale garden and a donated raised planter serve as demonstrations of those planting techniques and are used for children and adult education, with a bonus of fresh vegetables to distribute or donate. The library team consists of current and retired Master Gardeners, along with other talented gardeners from the area. As the Rome Garden Club, they welcome other interested volunteers and usually work together on workdays, as they enjoy the collaboration. They sponsor and conduct monthly educational sessions on timely topics, usually on the [second Wednesday](#) of the month. Thanks to the Lester Library of Rome Garden Team for hosting our meeting in June



Edgewater Haven Serenity Garden/ Judy Miller

Edgewater Garden was created in 2007 with the combined efforts of the Edgewater Garden Club and several Master Gardeners. The concept was a garden which provided experiences for residents using all the senses : vibrant, rainbow colors, strawberries and blueberries for tasting; fragrant flowers and herbs for smelling; popcorn plant as it responds to touching; listening to the pollinators and birds; and feeling the wind pass through the grasses.

There have been some changes and some consistencies over the years. The major consistency, and my greatest JOY, is to mingle with residents who have had their memories triggered by a certain flower; and usually that results in a learning opportunity, for both of us.

The garden has 6 raised beds filled mostly with annuals. The ground beds are filled mostly with perennials, surrounded by paths and benches to allow the residents close proximity. Those of us that garden and love gardens know the contentment we experience being surrounded by the lovely flowers. It is an ongoing surprise to discover what has emerged and what has waned since our last visit. Visitors and residents often voice those same

feelings.

It has been my pleasure to choose flowers each year and to tend them with the help of several very knowledgeable gardeners. This year I have had weekly help from Karen Schirek and Nita Kirst. They are the BEST!! The funding from the Master Gardener Association is much appreciated.

Project Updates

WCMG Newsletter July



Garden Walk 2024 Update

We're almost there!

July 20th the date, 9 AM– 4 PM the time. With all the rain and sunshine we've experienced this summer, this Garden Walk will be something to be proud of – why?

Amazing Gardens, Garden Owners

Our garden hosts have been super accommodating and exciting to work with. Each has been working hard to include fun features for our guests on the garden tour.

Raffle/Silent Auction

The walk is a major fundraiser for our WC Master Gardener Club, but we've taken it one step further with an awesome array of silent auction items and raffle baskets to provide additional support for our causes. Wait until you see the variety! Bring your wallet – we know you'll want to buy tickets.

Plant Identification

Look for garden plants, some trees and shrubs to be "labeled" aiding visitors as they peruse each garden and wonder, "What is that lovely flower?" These labels add an educational and informative element to the gardens, and free up our host and Master Gardeners for other questions.

Host Gifts

The garden host gift/coveted "garden stone" will be presented to each gardener the night before the walk and on display Saturday. Enjoy how beautifully unique each one is. What a wonderful memory of participating in the walk they will make for our gardeners!

Added Features

Music, Art, Food, Vendors. These enhancements will add pleasure to the garden walk experience for everyone. Come see it and believe it!

Sharing what we know, what we do

Hands-on demonstrations, lectures, displays and handouts will all be available in the gardens. Let's hope what we share encourages others to take Janelle's course and consider joining the Wood Co Master Gardener's organization.

It is not too late to participate or volunteer to help! If interested, please:

-Contact Lilyschotten@gmail.com or phone 715-213-7672

-Sell tickets to your friends, family members and encourage attendance to all you see. --Tickets will be available for purchase at our June 25th meeting.

Fall Plant Sale Buzz for July



Things To Do Now Sept. 13 Set-up, Sept.14-15 Sale

Set up a donation box at home for plant sale durable goods.
Continue or start growing perennials, house plants and succulents.
Plants sell if they have a picture of it in bloom, start your collection now.

Dry arrangement materials: (This is one of our best moneymakers)

- Keep a list of plants and their location that can be harvested for seed heads and dry arrangement material.
- Watch for seed heads after plants finish blooming, and begin to harvest for dry arrangements as they mature and dry.
- Ask permission to harvest from other's gardens.
- Interesting seed heads can come from:
 - Chives and other alliums seed heads • Lupines • Bleeding hearts • Clematis seed heads • Peony seed pods • Iris seed heads • Poppy seed heads • Liatris • Curly willow branches • Clover flowers • Stems of Lavender • Amaranthus • Everlastings/Straw flowers • Pampas grass • Wheat & oats sheaves • Hyssop • Penstemon • Rose hips • Grasses, wild and domestic, not yet dropping seeds • Bachelor buttons • Borage • Ox-Eyed Daisies • Peonies • Anise Hyssop

Winter Sown Plants:

- Place winter sown plants into places with the appropriate light requirements as they begin to germinate, shade plants in the shade and sun plants in the sun.
- When plants have two pairs of true leaves, transplant to 4 inch pots and label each pot. If seeds were too thickly sown and impossible to separate, plant a "small chunk" of seedlings, then later **cut** off all but the strongest seedling in the pot after the transplant shock passes.
- Use up to 4 inch pots for new seedlings. See Jill if you need some. If you are overwintering plants, repot in TALL 4inch or 6 inch pots. We are trying to use uniform size pots for easier pricing.
- Place the pots on a tarp or raise off the ground on a pallet or bricks, etc. to prevent jumping worm infestations.
- Mulch the pots to keep the plants cool and cut down on watering needs.
- Check often and water as needed, fertilizer is not necessary

If you are raising native plants, please email Donna Streiff the names of your plants **SOON** so they can be included on the native plant posters for the Plant Sale. Since most won't be blooming in September, it helps shoppers see what the plants will look like in bloom.



Central Wisconsin State Fair

Please add to your calendar, CWSF Aug 20th to 25th. Two members per shift. Receive one day - free gate pass and help with parking on the grounds. Resource information on site. Set-up is August 19th. Booth shifts 3.5 hours 11a-2pm or 2p-6pm, you can ask for a longer shift. Tell Bea or Jill what shift you would like while it is still available.

SIGN-UP SHEET

WOOD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER ASK A MASTER GARDENER - BOOTH
CENTRAL WI STATE FAIR Tuesday, AUGUST 20nd TO Sunday, AUGUST 25th, 2024

Sign up for one or more 3.5-hour time slots. You will receive a free pass for the whole day to attend the fair. Two members staff the booth with supporting "Ask a Master Gardener" materials. You have permission to open earlier or stay later. We will have one parking pass to share during the week.

Tues, August 20th 11-2:30 pm _____ 2:30-6pm _____

Weds, August 21st 11-2:30 pm _____ 2:30-6pm _____

Thurs, August 22nd 11-2:30 pm _____ 2:30-6pm _____

Fri, August 23rd 11-2:30pm _____ 2:30- 6pm _____

Sat, August 24th 11-2:30 pm _____ 2:30-6pm _____

Sun, August 25th 11-2:30 pm 2:30-6pm _____ 11-2:30pm 2:30- 6pm _____

Please write yourself a note with the date and time you have selected to help.

Thanks Bea Kohl 715 423-8908

Notes: Bea, Karleen and Jill will fill in as needed.

Important Note from the Extension Office

If you are on a committee, project, or team that needs printing done at the Extension Office at the Wood County Courthouse, be aware of the following requirements

- Submit your printing needs to Karli at least one week in advance of when you need them. You can take them to the courthouse in person or send by email. karli.tomsyck@woodcountywi.gov>
- You might want to call Karli in advance at 715-421-8440 to coordinate your needs and her availability.
- Karli works on **Tuesday**, **Thursday**, and **Friday** (but only until 2pm)

You can pick up your printed copies on any day, even if Karli is not working. Another staff person can help you.



Pictures of adventures from the June 11 Road Trip to Jurrustic Park and Urban's Greenhouse. Fun! Fun!

Calendar of Events

July 20 Garden Walk*

July 23 Membership Meeting at Edgewood gardens 6pm***

Aug 15 Hancock Ag Station Tour and dining out after

Aug 20-25 CWSF*

Aug 27 Membership Meeting at Vesper Park 6pm

Sept 7 Clean Sweep Saratoga Town Hall and Garage 8am-noon**

Sept 14-15 Fall Plant Sale (setup Sept 13)*

* See related articles in this newsletter for details

**For more detail, go to [Environmental Health - Disposal - Wood County Wisconsin](#)

***See help needed below the Calendar of Events

Project Help Needed

The following organizations in the ORS host MG projects that would welcome help in 2024. Please refer to the member roster in the **Members Only** section of our website for project leader contact information.

Edgewater Sensory Garden: Port Edwards. Workdays generally Monday mornings, starting about 9am, as well as other times as needed.

July Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardeners website

- Water gladiolus and dahlias weekly to a depth of 6-8 inches.
- Water flower beds at least once a week during dry spells. Remove old lily blooms.
- Peony bushes should be mulched and seedpods removed.
- Take cuttings from roses and spring flowering shrubs for new plant propagation when stems are no longer succulent but not yet hardened.
- Cut old canes of climbing roses so those new shoots can grow.
- Control rust on hollyhock by removing infected leaves.
- Divide iris and day lily when done blooming. Cut leaves back to about 8 inches.
- Thin and transplant perennials sown in June.
- Complete outdoor sowing of perennial seed.
- Inspect vegetables and herbs for pests daily and treat if necessary.
- Control garden weeds to prevent them from going to seed.
- Harvest onions and early potatoes when tops begin to shrivel.
- In early July, plant lettuce and spinach for fall crop. Pre-germinate on moist towel or plant deeper than in spring. Plant kale, bunching onions, cucumbers, beets, rutabagas and turnips, cabbage family seedlings and peas for fall harvest.
- Keep tomatoes mulched and watered to prevent blossom end rot.
- Keep ripe vegetables picked to maintain productivity.
- Watch for spider mites during hot, dry weather. Juniper and spruce needles turn rusty colored if infested.
- Water newly planted trees weekly if needed throughout the summer and apply a mulch (3 inches or less) to maintain even soil moisture.



- During dry spells, water all trees deeply every 2-3 weeks.
- Remove suckers from grafted plants. Water fruit trees during dry spells or they may abort fruit. Trees need 1 inch of water weekly during fruit growth.
- Prune yews, junipers and arborvitae by mid-July.
- Remove old canes of summer bearing red raspberries after harvest. Thin new canes to 3-4 canes per foot of row or 9-10 canes per hill. For black raspberries, thin new canes to 10 per hill. Cut tips of new canes back around July 1. Cut back raspberry tips back to two feet above the soil level and blackberry tips back to four feet above soil level. Cut purple and yellow raspberry tips to 30-36 inches above the soil.
- Keep orchard grass mowed and raked to discourage fungal pathogens harbored in tall grass and plant debris. Hang baited red sticky ball traps in apple trees for apple maggot control.

2024 WCMGV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Chris Grimes
715-424-2878

Vice President—OPEN

Secretary—Judy Miller
715-572-4798

Treasurer—Famia Marx
715-652-2405

Director—Jill Becker
715-387-8040

Director—Lil Schotten
715-213-7672

Director—Bea Kohl
715-423-8908

Director—Carolyn Schulein
715-389-9027

Communications Rep.—
Chris Grimes
715-424-2878

WIMGA Rep—
Karleen Remington
715-387-1863

Newsletter Editor—Donna
Streiff
715-207-6218

Wood County Extension Horticultural Agent
Janell Wehr janell.wehr@wisc.edu

The Wood County Master Gardener Association is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with its members and the community alike. In addition, it is our charge to promote the UW Extension from which we are founded. We are a diverse group interested in the latest research-based horticultural information.

Future Article Submissions

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

Wisconsin Master Gardener Website:

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

Wood County Extension Website:

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

Wood County Master Gardener Association Website:

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

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

Reminders

- If you need continuing education hours, see page 5-10
- Continue to start house plants, succulents, fairy gardens, etc. for plant sales
- Check on overwintering and winter sown plants for new growth
- Volunteer to work on one of our major projects—Plant Sale, Garden Walk, CWSF.
- Transplant winter sown seedlings when they have two sets of true leaves. Move shade plants into a shady area for the summer.
- Collect and dry material for dried arrangements for fall plant sale.