

March Meeting Information

Tree and Shrub Care

Our March meeting will be held on March 25 in the **Pittsville Community Center**. Our speaker will be Arborist Steve Hollar from Arbor Vantage Tree Service of Milladore, WI. He will be speaking to us on tree and shrub care.

The address for the Pittsville Community Center is
5291 3rd Avenue.

Directions:

From Marshfield-

Take Central Avenue south through roundabouts, taking 10 West. Continue on 10 W for 3 miles to junction with highway 80 South. Take 80 south to Pittsville (15 miles) Turn right to Pittsville at Cenex gas station. Continue on Highway 80 to Main Street. Turn left onto Main Street. (Associated Bank is on the corner). Continue 400 feet to 3rd avenue. The Library/Community Center will be on the right.

From Wis Rapids-

Take West Grand/Highway 73 N for 15.9 miles. Turn left onto 4th Avenue (at Dollar General). Go 1.1 miles to Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street. Go 1 block to 3rd Avenue. The Library/Community Center will be on the left.



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Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

From UW Extension Horticulture

UW Extension Horticulture [Wisconsin Horticulture – Division of Extension](#) This site has a plethora of resources to explore. It is a great source for getting Continuing Ed credits. Has print and video resources for free use. Sign up to receive their monthly newsletter with pertinent topics: [Sign up](#) No new programs scheduled for 2025 yet.. If you need Continuing Education Hours, go to [Online Program Archive – Wisconsin Horticulture](#) to view many of the recorded programs This is a good way to get your Ed hours before you get too busy gardening this spring..

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 [2025 PDDC Monthly Disease Talk Registration Form | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic](#)

Growing Healthy Plants-Basics in Plant Disease Management Mar. 26 6:30—8:30pm

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.

Ask the Experts 1:30 Select Mondays Mar. 17

Join our monthly online programs in 2025 for an opportunity to connect with plant health experts from the UW-Madison Division of Extension. Each session, held on Monday afternoons from 1:30 pm, is your chance to ask questions about your trees and shrubs, garden vegetables and ornamentals, and lawns, insects, disease, etc.. Registration link: [Free Online Gardening Programs – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

Melinda Myers Programs [Home :: Melinda Myers](#)

Grow Pollinator-friendly Spring & Summer Flowering Bulbs Mar. 12 6:30pm

Spring flowering bulbs like grape hyacinths, crocus, daffodils, hyacinths, and alliums provide welcome color and food for pollinators in our late winter and spring gardens. Keep the beauty going throughout the summer and into fall with summer bloomers like gladiolas, hardy lilies, cannas and dahlias. We'll discuss the best bulbs for your growing conditions, tips on keeping them looking their best, and methods for overwintering those that are not hardy in your area. Sponsored by Long field Gardens Register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Be a Waterwise Gardener Mar. 19 6:30pm

Too much or not enough water and never at the right time. This seems to be the complaint of every gardener. We'll take an in-depth look at ways to minimize water use, keep water where it falls, and efficient ways to water plants when needed. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will provide an in-depth look at many of the drought-tolerant plants and ways to manage those that need a bit more moisture. Melinda will share the benefits of incorporating rain barrels and rain gardens into your landscape and using drip and clay pot irrigation and other water-efficient devices. You'll learn how to manage this precious resource as you grow a beautiful landscape. Sponsored by Summit Responsible Solutions. Register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

(more)

Succession Planting & Crop Rotation Mar. 26 6:30pm

Maximize your harvest and reduce the risk of insect pests and disease by rotating plantings and making multiple plantings throughout the growing season. Melinda will share recommendations for spring through fall vegetable selections, planting dates, and seasonal care. In addition, she'll discuss ways to adapt your garden layout from season to season and year to year to help minimize pest problems and boost growing success. Sponsored by Ebert's Greenhouse Village [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Rain Garden Q & A Mar. 27 6:30pm

Whether you're a new or an experienced gardener, every growing season and gardening endeavor generates questions. If you've planted a rain garden, you are likely to have questions you encountered along the way. If you'll be planting your first rain garden, you're bound to have some general and specific questions as you get started. Join me and others to tackle some of the common questions and concerns. Feel free to email your questions in advance or ask them during the live webinar by emailing info@melindamyers.com with the subject line: Rain Garden Questions. Sponsored by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Fresh Coast Guardians. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Container Gardens for Sun and Shade Apr. 2 6:30pm

Presented by Melinda Myers. Container gardens add color and seasonal interest to balconies, patios, decks, and even your front entrance. No matter where they're placed, matching the plants to the available sunlight will help boost success. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will share container plant combinations for both sun-filled and shady locations. Plus, she'll provide tips on the proper care to keep them looking good all season long. Sponsored by We Energies. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Reinvigorate Your Rain Garden Apr. 10 6:30pm

Keeping up any garden, including low-maintenance rain gardens requires some effort. Weeds move in, plants outgrow their space and some desirable plants die. Add to this the challenge of maintaining the area around the garden and keeping the water flowing from the roof, walks, and lawn to the garden. Melinda will share ways to manage these challenges to help you create an attractive garden that helps manage the water that falls in your yard. Sponsored by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Fresh Coast Guardians. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Marshfield Public Library Garden Guru

Container and Small Space Gardening Mar. 13 6pm

Do you have the itch to garden but have no space to do it? Join us for a program featuring ideas to use in small lots or for apartment dwellers. Many ideas can also be used to increase production in your garden area regardless of size. If there's a will, there's a way to garden almost anywhere! We'll end the program by planting seeds in a small container garden for you to take home.



Plant Sale Update



Save the Dates
2025

Spring Plant Sale

May 17th
930 Westport Drive
Port Edwards

Featuring:

- Annuals, Natives, Perennials
- Seeds & Vegetables Starters
- Garden Walk tickets
- Bake Sale
- "Ask a Master Gardener" Booth

22nd Annual
Garden Walk
Saturday, July 19th
Stay tuned for more details!

Fall Plant Sale

September 13-14
Maple Fall Fest
at Wildwood Park
Marshfield

Featuring:

- Houseplants, Natives, Perennials
- Dried Arrangements
- Garden Accessories & Art
- "Ask a Master Gardener" Booth

**All event proceeds support Wood County Master Gardener beautification and educational projects.*

PLANT SALE BUZZ



A small effort can lead to significant results.

As a child, my maternal grandmother had an uncanny ability to find four-leaf clover plants among the other clover in the lawn before anyone else. When we encountered change on the sidewalk, she insisted on picking it up, even just a penny. She would always say that nickels made quarters and quarters made dollars. In the world of plants, seedlings are akin to pennies; a small effort can yield substantial outcomes.

You can obtain seedlings from winter-sown containers prepared by other members or start your own using this method or an indoor growing technique. Grandma's small actions accumulated into something valuable, just as our collective efforts in planting seedlings can result in a plentiful supply of plants for our sales.

The following members are engaged in winter-sowing seeds: Donna, Karleen, and Jill. Famia will be starting vegetable plants, and Ann propagates succulents. Please feel free to seek assistance from other members if you wish to try any of these techniques.

Jill and her committee have met to compile orders for vegetables, annuals, herbs and bulbs (spring sale) and perennials (both sales). Orders are not final so suggestions are welcome.

The plant sale committee is welcoming any suggestions on ways to cut the cost of starting vegetable plants. It could be someone you know who is willing to start them for us at low cost or maybe a member who has greenhouse space to grow some or all of the started plants. Lower start-up costs mean lower prices for customers. Let Jill know if you have some ideas.

Begin potting up houseplants that you plan to donate for the spring sale. Start annuals for the spring sale so they are large enough to sell in May. We always need bulbs!!

Dig out a box and label it "Plant Sale Donations". Start collecting gardening related items in good condition for the spring sale. Include in the box a list of your large items that need to be "re-gardened" so you remember to include them when you gather your May donations.

For ordering and planning purposes, Jill would appreciate if you would e-mail a list of houseplants and the number that you intend to donate. She welcomes your list now and you can periodically update it for her as spring moves on.

Meet the New BOD Members!

Terrie Brown is our new Vice President

"I was raised on a farm near Pittsville. So, raising "stuff" was expected. My mother canned what we reaped from our garden. I started with my own vegetable garden about 20 years ago. I enjoy digging in the dirt and it fills me with wonder when tiny plants break through the surface. I also enjoy reading, kayaking and baking."

Stacy Musch is our new Secretary

"I am from Rapids. I actually grew up right over the County Line into Portage County on the banks of the Wisconsin River. My parents and grandma were gardeners. We had a big blueberry patch behind the garage and my sister and I would love to pick them. I spent a lot of time with my grandma and would help her in the garden and then with cooking as well. Both my mom and grandma were very into plants and flowers for their yards as well. We always spent a lot of time outside and my grandma was very into bird watching as well".

I enjoy many pastimes including knitting, crocheting, sewing, cooking, and scrapbooking. I also love animals and have a small hobby farm. I enjoy volunteering and working with kids. I have been a Girl Scout Leader for 8 years now and have been an active volunteer in 4-H for 4 years. I have 2 kids that I homeschool and work full time as a Title Examiner for a real estate insurance company.



Both Terrie and Stacy completed their training in 2023 and were busy getting certification hours with WCMGA in 2024. We welcome your new ideas and having you in your new roles!



Garden Walk 2025 Update

The garden walk team is assembled and hard at work, preparing to bring the community another lively event that brings joy and inspiration to all who attend. Our fingers are crossed that **July 19th** will provide a sunny, summer day backdrop once again for this fundraising event.

Gardens

Six uniquely beautiful gardens have been selected for Garden Walk 2025 and are located in the Wisconsin Rapids and Vesper areas. We are excited to work with these new garden hosts and are planning an event in April where hosts, artists and vendors will meet the GW team and become familiarized with activities and expectations associated with the Garden Walk.

Tickets

Ticket prices will be \$10 in advance and \$12 day of walk, aligned with neighboring counties and garden clubs. We were amazed to learn that early ticket sales were so popular (almost 50% of our sales), so we will increase the numbers available to businesses who promoted ticket sales and are planning a friendly competition between Master Gardeners – more to come on that!

Sponsorships

Sponsorships nearly covered the expenses of putting on the Garden Walk, so in March we will be knocking on doors of businesses in the community hoping they will be there to support us again. We'd love to hear from you about additional sponsor suggestions if you have them. Sponsors benefit by being advertised on our ticket, all posters, and mentioned on TV and radio ads. In addition, sponsors receive 2 free tickets to the garden walk. Sponsorships are offered at 2 levels: The Bud Bouquet: \$50, and The Bountiful Bouquet: \$80. You can't beat that!

Additional Focused Teams

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and the same goes for putting together a successful Garden Walk! The GW team members are also working on organizing a basket raffle, planning garden education in-line with our organizational goals, identifying art, music or vendor opportunities to enhance our gardens, creating host gifts, and expanding on advertising opportunities.

If you have suggestions to share or want to become more involved please reach out! We'd love to have you.

Contact:

Lil Schotten 715-213-7672

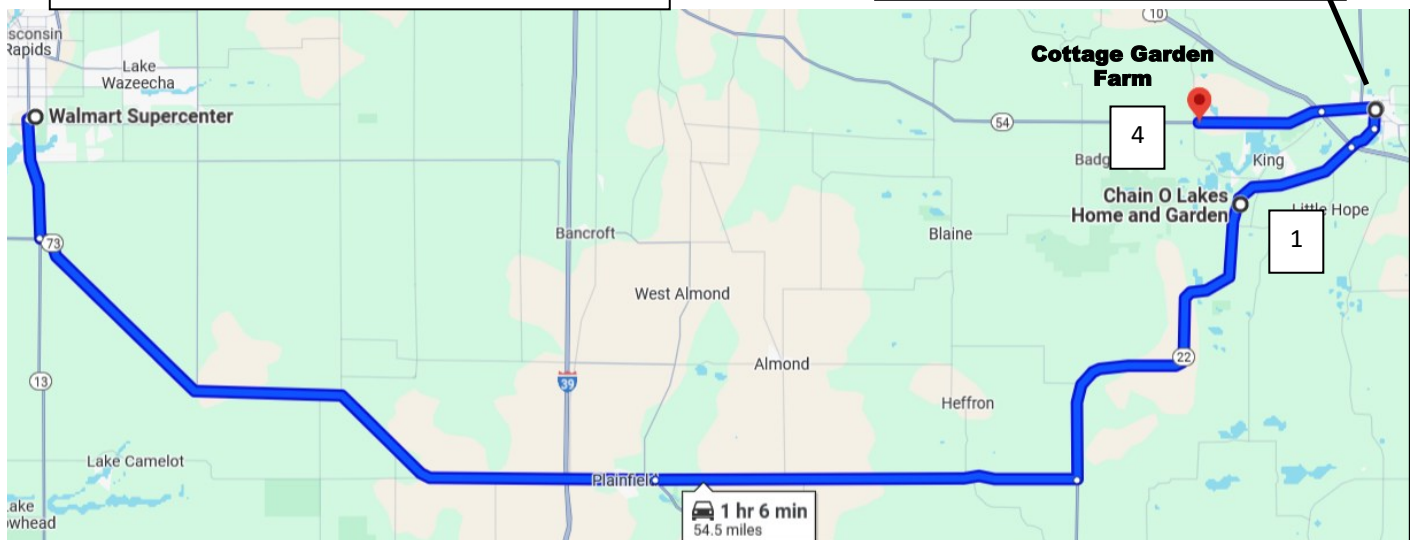
The 2025 Social Committee has finalized the first trip.

On Tuesday, May 6th we will be going to the Waupaca area.

We included a little something for everyone to enjoy! Come with us for a day full of fun adventure, finding just the perfect plant/tree/shrub, to a new outfit to wear at our next trip. We will also be searching for that special piece of garden art or pot to enhance every type of garden we may have. Lunch will be at a little Mom and Pop restaurant in downtown Waupaca.

So--- Wear your walking shoes for this fun adventure as we explore the greater Waupaca Area!

1. Chain of Lake Home And Garden Center
N 2270 WI-22, Waupaca
2. Little Fat Gretchens
108 South Main Street, Waupaca
3. New 2 You
118 South Main Street, Waupaca
4. Cottage Garden Farms
E957 Highway 54, Waupaca



Itinerary with tentative time frame

- 9:00am Leave Wal Mart parking lot. {8th Street end of the garden center}
- 10:00am Arrive at the Chain of Lakes Home and Garden Center (offering a 10% discount and Snacks)
- 12:00am Arrive at Little Fat Gretchens Restaurant
- 12:45pm Walk to New 2 You
- 1:00pm Arrive at Cottage Garden Farm
- Leave for home on your own from Cottage Garden Farm

Education Materials Library

Karleen Remington

After some frustrating experiences trying to track down education materials for which the Wood County Master Gardeners have financed the printing, I have taken on the responsibility of coordinating those materials so that they are all housed in one place. Our storage space at the courthouse is minimal right now and there is no system that documents titles and quantities. At this point, the materials include tri-fold paper brochures and flat handouts of horticulture information on various topics.

If you need any of the following titles for a WCMGA sponsored activity or the Ask a Master Gardener tote, please let me know and I will arrange to get them to you. Be sure to give me enough lead time so that if additional copies need to be printed, there is time to do that.

Tri-fold Brochures

Using Native Plants in Your Garden
Monarchs in the Garden
Successful Container Gardening
Wood County Master Gardeners

Flat Handouts

Composting: The Basics
Growing Hostas
Houseplant Succulents for Beginners
Planting Your Native Perennial in the Fall
Planting Guide/Native Pollinator Garden

WIMGA Corner

Reminder: The Homegrown National Park presentation with Doug Tallamy will be available on the WIMGA website through March 9. Anyone who wants to learn more about the value and use of natives.....whether plants, shrubs, vines or trees.....will find this most enlightening. The speaker is nationally renown.....especially in Eastern US. His national park concept is intriguing. CE: 1 hour.

The **March Continuing Education Series** is highlighted on the WIMGA home page. This is a 3-part series with a registration fee of \$30 for WIMGA members. Your gardening friends can register for \$45. The series is a fund raiser for WIMGA and the fee covers all 3 sessions. Topics include: *Pesticides, Pollinators and the Garden* on March 4, *Ephemerals and Woodland Plants* on March 12 and *Unusual Perennials Through the Three Seasons* on March 19. Find out additional details and registration information on the WIMGA website.

Chris announced at the February BOD meeting that our grant application to WIMGA got lost even though she submitted it in plenty of time. You may have noticed in a recent WIMGA newsletter announcing grant awards that WCMGA was not listed. Now you know why. All the available funds were awarded so we must look to the future. The BOD discussed the issue and possible directions to go from here. I think Chris will be asking for a volunteer committee to put together a variation of our 2024 plan for submission next fall.

Karleen Remington, WIMGA Representative

Calendar of Events*

- Mar. 12 Melinda Myers Webinar - Grow Pollinator-friendly Spring & Summer Flowering Bulbs**
- Mar. 13 ERMPL Garden Guru - Container and Small Space Gardening**
- Mar. 17 On-line—Ask the Experts**
- Mar. 19 Melinda Myers Webinar Be a Waterwise Gardener**
- Mar. 25 March Membership Meeting—Pittsville**
- Mar. 26 Melinda Myers Webinar- Succession Planting & Crop Rotation**
- Mar. 26 PDDC Online—Growing Healthy Plants-Basics in Plant Disease Management**
- Mar. 27 Melinda Myers Webinar—Rain Garden Q & A**
- Apr. 2 Melinda Myers Webinar—Container Gardens for Sun and Shade**
- Apr. 10 Melinda Myers Webinar—Reinvigorate Your Rain Garden**
- May 6 Spring Road Trip**
- May 17 Spring Plant Sale**
- Jul . 19 Garden Walk**
- Sep. 13-14 Fall Plant Sale**

Whew!! And we are just getting started this year!

***Refer to pages 2 and 3 for more information about most of these listings, including times and links to register.**

March Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener Website

- 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.
- Later in the month 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.



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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

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

ORS is open for recording your hours.

Onboarding Lite is open also. Sign in for 2025 and review your information, sign consents, etc. You are responsible for reviewing the material every year. You were sent quite a few updates in January that you MUST be aware of as a Master Gardener.

Consider what you can grow to contribute to the plant sales. It is not too late to start many perennials by winter sowing. A little later this spring, you can also start annuals by the same method. Succulents, bulbs, and house plants are always the first to go. Have any you can propagate?