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# June Meeting Minutes

**Wood County Master Gardener Association  
General Membership Meeting  
June 24, 2025 - 6:00 pm  
Marshfield Outdoor Learning Sanctuary**

**Program:** Marshfield Outdoor Learning Sanctuary    Total Present: 16

**Business Meeting:** Called to order 7:14 by President Chris Grimes.

**Secretary's Report:** (Stacy) Minutes from May 27, 2025 were reviewed and put on file.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Famia) Famia sick. Report will be coming. Note that the Board decided to take \$500.00 from the CD before renewal to use towards replacing canopy tents.

**WIMGA Report:** (Karleen) No update. Groups are listing their garden walks on the website

## **Old Business:**

**Project Education Signs:** (Chris) A design was made. We are doing a QR code for the project landing page instead of each individual project. This will allow people to see all of our project areas and maybe elicit more interest. The signs will also be interchangeable to any garden then.

**30th Anniversary:** (Chris) Nothing new.

## **New Business:**

**Project Spotlights/Pictures:** Chris will be going to all the projects and take pictures. She would be happy to have others join her.

**Sowing Success/Recruitment:** Janell will not be holding the in person class this year. Anyone interested will have to take the online class. With that, we really need to figure out how to get the word out to those who take the class that we have an MG program. Chris is working with other counties on recruitment ideas.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Programs:** (Terrie) No change to the schedule of programs.

**Spring Sale:** (Jill) Looking at going to 1 ½ to 2 days for the sale.

**Plant digs** (Chris) - The board discussed and voted to NOT allow members to dig plants to sell at our plant sales.

**Garden Walk:** (Chris) Tickets are selling, gardens are looking awesome, volunteer roster is full, info for volunteers will be coming out the first week of July, signs are available if anyone has a place to put them, make sure to get signs back to Lil after the Garden Walk. There will be 2 radio ads, 1 TV ad, and a newspaper ad. Turn in any last minute raffle basket items as soon as possible.

**Socialization Plans:** (Chris & Diane)

August - Monk Gardens and NTC

September 9th - Food + Farm Exploration Center in Plover

**Community Education Plans:** (Donna) Nothing new.

**Adjournment:** M/S/P to adjourn at 8:06 PM.

**Next Meeting:** July 22, 2025 - 6:00 pm at McMillan Library - Hydroponics with Trevor Frank

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Musch, Secretary

# From the Program Committee

Future meeting education programs

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM TOPIC	LOCATION
July 22	Trevor Frank	Hydroponics	McMillian Library
August 26	Grotto Staff	Garden Tour/Picnic	Rudolph Grotto
September 23	Donna Streiff	Composting	Marshfield Library
October 28	Famia Marx	Indoor Plant Lighting	TBD
November 18	Barb Herried	Winter Social	Alexander House

## 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  
Square Foot Gardening

## Thank You for WCMGA Native Plant Donation

Donna Streiff, Jill Becker and Karleen Remington made a donation of excess native plants after the fall plant sale to the Marshfield Outdoor Learning Sanctuary. The following is a thank you note from Jane Wagner of the Marshfield Rotary Club for our donation. The Rotary Club has been responsible for much of the work that has gone into the development of the sanctuary

Dear Master Gardeners,  
We are profoundly grateful for your generous support of the Marshfield Outdoor Learning Sanctuary. Your recent donation of native plants is deeply appreciated. They have been planted by Marshfield High School Plant Science students, their teachers and Rotary members. Please come and visit! Thanks again.  
Jane Wagner.

# 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. It has print and video resources for free use. Sign up to receive their monthly newsletter with pertinent topics: [Sign up](#) 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](#)

### Diseases of Herbaceous Ornamentals July 23 6:30 – 8:30pm

Learn about common diseases that can adversely affect the plants in your home vegetable garden. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.

### Ask the Experts July 21 1:30-2:30pm

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 to 2:30pm, 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

No new webinars but she will be at the WI State Fair. Also see her recorded webinars if you need continuing education credits

## Marshfield Public Library Garden Guru Programs

**July 24 Vegetable Diseases 6pm** Learn about common vegetable diseases and how to control them by the safest means in your garden.

**August 14 6pm Importance of Using Native Plants in Your Landscape/Yard 6pm** Learn why native plants help our environment as well as how they can make gardening less work.



# Plant Disease Pointers – To Reuse Pots or Not Reuse Pots – That is the Question



I have recently seen comments and discussions on social media about reusing pots from greenhouse or nursery-purchased plants. In some instances, there has been discussion of returning pots to nurseries and greenhouses for businesses to reuse.

I'm definitely all for reusing pots whenever possible. It's an environmentally sound thing to do. However, keep in mind that you need to be cautious when reusing pots as they potentially can be sources of disease-causing organisms. These pathogens may be carryovers from plants that you originally purchased in the pots, or they may be pathogens that the pots picked up later as the pots have been stored in your garden or elsewhere on your property. In particular, damping-off and root rot pathogens can be found in many garden soils, so anytime pots

come in contact with garden soil (and it doesn't have to be a lot), they can potentially become contaminated. And, it's not just pathogens that can be an issue. Insect pests and (gulp!) jumping worms could also potentially be carried via contaminated soil on recycled pots.

So, if you have a collection of old pots and want to reuse them (or even more importantly want to give them to your local nursery or greenhouse), take some precautions prior to reuse or donation.

## **Clean your pots thoroughly with soapy water**

to remove any bits of soil clinging to the surfaces of the pots that might be harboring pathogens. An added bonus of using an initial cleaning with soapy water is that this should help deactivate plant viruses that might be hanging out on your pots.

## **Soak your pots in a 1.0-1.5% sodium hypochlorite solution for 20-30 minutes**

Sodium hypochlorite is the active ingredient in disinfecting bleach. This treatment will help kill pathogens that remain on the surfaces of the pots. Be cautious when using bleach to avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing.

## **Thoroughly rinse the pots to remove bleach residues**

that can be toxic to the new plants that you are trying to grow in the pots.

Note that the treatment outlined above may not be successful in all situations. Bleach treatments tend to work better on clay or ceramic pots but tend to be less successful for plastic pots. Be that as it may, seriously consider decontaminating your pots prior to reuse or donation to local businesses. This will help limit, as much as possible, plant pathogen carryover and spread.

## **Need more information?**

For more information on plant diseases and their management, check out the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic website (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>) or contact PDDC staff at [pddc@wisc.edu](mailto:pddc@wisc.edu) or (608) 262-2863.



Events will be led by Master Gardener Educators at the Lester Public Library of Rome unless noted.

# ROME GARDEN CHATS

## 2025 EVENTS



April 16, 2025  
9:30-11:00

### **Designing Hanging Baskets\***

Discussion/Hands-On/Registration Required/Held at Foss' Garden Center



May 21, 2025  
9:30-11:00

### **Tackling Wildlife Damage**

Discussion/Led by Janell Wehr, UW-Extension Educator



June 18, 2025  
9:30-11:00

### **Sand-Casted Bird Bath Make-and-Take\***

Hands-On/Registration Required/Led by Laurie Francis and Boots Stolt



July 16, 2025  
9:30-11:00

### **Home-Grown National Parks**

Discussion/Led by Barb Herreid



Aug. 20, 2025  
9:30-11:00

### **Propagating with Cuttings**

Discussion/Led by Linda Beck and Laurie Francis



Sept. 10, 2025  
9:30-11:00

### **Bulbs and Tubers and Corms, Oh My!**

Discussion/Led by Ardyce Piehl and Becky Gutzman, Retired UW-Extension Educator



Oct. 15, 2025  
9:30-11:00

### **Growing Lettuce Indoors with the Kratky Method**

Discussion/Led by Jennifer Fane

\*A materials fee will be charged.

# Garden Walk Update

## Garden Walk 2025 Update-Signs of the Times



Advertising an event in today's world is quite different from what I remember. If you wanted to know the news, you read the newspaper. But nowadays there's a million and one ways to capture an audience ranging from teen to older adult, all of whom we hope to attract to the walk. No worries, we are up to the challenge!

We got a QR code. It's everywhere now, on handouts, posters, and signs. It brings you right to our WCMG website and directly to the Garden Walk Webpage so you don't spend your life searching for info--fancy!

Posters, in 2 sizes have been spread across the land in a 60-mile radius-the word is out there.

¼ Sheet Garden Walk Flyers (over 2000) are found where you eat, pray, sleep, shop and exercise

Banners Yup, 3. Placed on the highway corridors to the city

TV? Radio? You bet! Garden Lily and the team will be selling autographs soon. Keep your ears/eyes open-public broadcasting, WGLX, WFHR.

Yard Signs can be found here, there and everywhere. We sure hope folks notice, there's a Garden Walk in town July 19<sup>t</sup>

Newspaper ads have been sent out also; we hope to see them published in July.



### Garden Tickets

The race is still on to see who can sell the most "early sale" tickets. A few have already sold more than 10-yeah! Remember whoever sells the most advance tickets will receive a brand new Fiskars brand ratcheting lopper and pruner set. Please return all unsold tickets to Lil or any Garden Walk Team member: Cathy Schutz, Judy Miller in Port Edwards, Jim and Diane Nickel in Nekoosa, Chris Grimes, Stacy Musch, Bea Kohl, Jan Meyers in Wi Rapids, Deb Rokke, Barb Herreid in Rome, and Karleen Remington in Marshfield **by July 18**.

### Thank you Volunteers

This event requires assistance from many. Thank you Master Gardeners for filling 4 and 8-hour shifts on Garden Walk Day, our success would not be possible without "U".

### We Will Be Ready

Construction along the route between Garden 5 and 6 will affect normal travel between gardens, but our signage team promises to clearly mark the alternate route, which does not add time between homes.

Our team is checking regularly with hosts and the transformations are incredible. Beautiful gardens, great entertainment, quilt display, unique art, raffle baskets, pizza and more. This will be a Garden Walk for the books!

Until next time! Your Garden Walk Committee

# Plant Sale Updates

## Plant Digs

For a long time, we've been holding off on selling plants dug from our own gardens at our fundraisers as we assess the best practices related to jumping worms. We've studied information on their life cycle and looked for information from reputable sources about how to prevent their spread. We've heard of other MG associations that sell their own plants and learned there is a lot of variation on how or even if they test before they sell.

At our last Board meeting, we discussed these issues and reviewed recommendations and possible plans on developing a policy for responsible sharing of transplanted material. It is probably possible to be reasonably sure we are not selling contaminated plants, but the process is a little arduous. In the end, the BOD decided not to adopt a policy for doing this as part of our fundraising. Yes, plant digs help our profitability, which is a concern. You can really help this aspect of our sales by doing some winter sowing of natives or "adopting" a container of seedlings in the spring that someone else started during the winter. Please consider helping in that area next winter.

This does not mean that there is nothing we all can do related to thwarting the spread of jumping worms or other diseases. There are still people in the state who have never heard of jumping worms and are oblivious to the risks of sharing plants. Please keep these actions in mind as you talk with gardeners and fishermen or consider selling or donating plants from your garden.

1. Continue to spread the word about invasive species, including jumping worms and how they would impact gardening and agriculture in Wisconsin. Know what to tell people about identifying jumping worms and how to prevent their spread. Feel free to print a few copies of our JW fact sheet and pamphlets to pass out. Our June and July 2024 newsletters, available on our website, have this information in them.
2. Be aware that mulch and compost have been implicated in spreading jumping worms and learn how to monitor for contamination.
3. Before selling or donating your plants, wait for the proper time of year to dig and do so only after mustard-testing your source soil. Dry mustard is available for sale in bulk on the internet with a wide variation in price, but a reasonable price can be found. The process is easy but requires you to wait until the appropriate time of the year.
4. Learn and keep up to date on best practices for testing soil; cleaning plant roots, tools and footwear; repotting or quarantining plants; or solarizing materials you buy from sources who aren't aware or vigilant.
5. Check out some of these sources. Be aware when reading life cycle information that Wisconsin timing may be later than another state.
  - \* <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/jumpingWorm>
  - \* UNH Best Practices for Sales and Swaps: <https://bit.ly/372SmAZ>
  - \* CAES Jumping Worm in Connecticut fact sheet (Dr. Gale E. Ridge, updated March 2022): <https://bit.ly/3u3HIDv>
  - \* UMass has a good identification posting: <https://bit.ly/3IW1OU0>
  - \* <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/jumping-worms/>



## Key evaluation comments on the Spring Plant Sale

Income Sub-Totals		Expenses			
Plant Sale & etc.	\$2,159.50	Starter cash	\$413.00	Income	\$2,740.30
Grab & Go	\$465.50	Expenses	<u>\$370.68</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	\$ <u>783.68</u>
Donations	\$ 29.75	Sub-total =	\$ <u>783.68</u>	<b>Profits</b>	<b>= \$1956.62</b>
Post Sales	<u>\$ 85.55</u>				
Sub-totals=	\$2,740.30				

- Our smaller plants are due to members having limited in-home growing spaces. Therefore, finding a vendor with a greenhouse to serve as a finishing site for our starter plants could be beneficial. This mutually beneficial arrangement would keep our costs low and potentially increase profits for both parties.
- Other vendors have historically seen higher profits on Fridays due to increased buyer traffic. Extending the sale to include Friday (1½ to 2 days) will reduce setup interruptions by providing better service to our customers and increase our revenue.
- Not every member assisting buyers is an expert on all plant topics. Providing reference materials to both members and buyers can enhance sales. Informed buyers make quick decisions, leading to increased satisfaction and potentially higher sales. Examples include plant labels, a list of available plants, recognition photos, and a tomato chart by color, type, and days to maturity.

## Fall Sale helpful reminders

Please provide a running list of your donations so reference materials can be created ahead of time, instead of the last minute.

**DATES** Fall sale set-up is Friday Sept. 12th. Sale during the weekend Sat, 13th 8am to 5pm and Sun, 14<sup>th</sup> 8am to 4pm.

List of Fall sale volunteers from 2025 renewal forms Cochairs=Becker & Kohl. Team= Miller, Remington, Schutz, Streiff. Peak Workers=Brown, Fischer, Grimes, Gruen, Herreid, Kilinski, Marx, Musch, Rokke, Schotten, Schulein, and Weister.

Please help by providing

- Contact information on possible local wholesalers for perennial plants.
- Provide your listing of what perennials we should purchase to re-sell in September.
- So, reference materials can be developed ahead of time. Please provide on a running basis the quantity/names of your native and non-native plants you intend to donate.
- THANK YOU

# Fall Plant Sale Buzz



## Things To Do Now

### General:

- Look for sales on potting soils and let others know.
- We are trying to use uniform size pots to make sale pricing easier. Donate 4 inch square pots, both short and tall. Members doing winter sowing / propagations can always use them. It would be much appreciated if these pots were cleaned.

### Winter sown plants:

- Start seeds for plants that do not require cold stratification.
- Check winter sown plants for germination. When the weather warms, start to open the containers to avoid overheating if plants have begun to show growth. Watering may also be necessary.
- Place winter sown plants into places with the appropriate light requirements as they begin to germinate, ie. 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.
- Contact Donna to adopt some of her winter-sown jugs to pot up the seedlings and care for them until September 12<sup>th</sup> – set-up day.
- Don't be too quick to discard what you think are dead overwintering plants. Some native plants do not “wake up” until later in the spring.

### Dry arrangement materials:

- Have you planned to add plants that have interesting seed heads for dry arrangements to your garden design this year? If so, start to think about starting seeds or shopping around for plants soon. See the 2023 September newsletter for a list of possible choices.
- Watch for seed heads after plants finish blooming and begin to harvest for dry arrangements as they mature and dry.

### Houseplants:

- Continue to propagate houseplants now that growth starts picking up in spring.
- Save small sized plants and allow them to grow larger for the fall sale, where they will be priced higher.
- Start fairy gardens or succulents in interesting containers.

### Non-plant products:

- Get together with others to make things that people will buy. It could be a useful tool, garden art, a craft item. Whimsical saying on signs, a bird or toad house, something to put on a hand tool so you can find it easily in the flower bed.

REMEMBER: No plants dug from your gardens. Bulbs must be washed and dried. Depending on the bulb, store dry or plant in potting mix.

## **Let's make the booth at the Central WI State Fair a recruiting event**

This is a great chance to recruit new members. Even if they don't join, they might still help with your project. The first step is to get them to stop at the booth or the fairgrounds gardens. Janell suggested we have an interactive activity that will bring children and gardeners to our booth.

Bea is chair. Team and peak volunteers are Rita, Lynn, Karlene, Jill, Audry, Micky, Chris, Catherine, Jan, and Carolyn, and Donna. More volunteers are needed to cover the 12 shifts with at least two workers each shift. The fair office requests information booths to be staffed the entire day so shift times are changing.

Proposal is to start at 9:30 or 10am and end at 6:30. Vendors with at least an hour drive may leave at 6pm. Volunteers are encouraged to come earlier or leave later than posted times.

- Help is needed to decide on topics to emphasize and an interactive activity, such as our 30-year history or a quiz on local flora.
- Help is also needed on gathering or creating activity materials, having eye-catching displays that attract attention, informative hand-outs that provide essential information quickly, and reference resources that offer detailed guidance for interested visitors.
- Adequate members to staff the booth and or the fairgrounds gardens.

Please check your calendar for volunteering a shift or two at the CWSF. Set-up is Monday August 18th. The fair runs from Tuesday's Aug 19th to Sunday Aug 24th. At no cost to you, you will receive a one day - free gate pass each day you volunteer and help with parking on the grounds. Resource information is on site.

See page 14 for an excellent example of educational materials.

## **SAVE the DATES!**

### **July 22 Membership Meeting**

Our July WCMGA meeting will feature our member Trevor Frank. He will present on the topic of "Hydroponics." It will be held at McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids, beginning at 6 PM

### **August Picnic**

Monthly Meeting and Picnic on  
Tuesday, August 26; 5:30pm  
at  
Rudolph Grotto Gardens

We'll start a little early so we don't run out of sunshine

More details in August newsletter

## Social Events



### Reserve this day for a fun outing!

Beautiful gardens and CE credit too!

#### **Monk Botanical Gardens and Northcentral Technical College Tours w/ lunch Thursday August 14 (approx 10am-3pm)**

We'll have a full day, starting with a tour of Monk Botanical Gardens with Pat Witt, Garden Supervisor and Horticulturalist. Following lunch at a local restaurant (dutch treat), we'll travel to NTC to meet with WCMG and NTC Faculty member Trevor Frank, who will conduct a tour of their agricultural campus and activities.

Travel on your own or watch for carpool information in the August newsletter.

Visit the Monk Gardens website for information and photos about all there is to see:

[www.monkgardens.org](http://www.monkgardens.org)

Many thanks to Trevor, who arranged complementary tours for us. No charge for either, but donations are always welcome and needed at Monk Gardens.

#### **Food+Farm Exploration Center 3400 Innovation Drive Plover**

This center was born of a mission to educate current and future generations about agricultural innovation and sustainability. As a place for education, unforgettable family experiences, fun, and great wholesome food, it is a unique way to learn about careers in agriculture. Regardless of age or background, you will find immersive, multi-sensory activities and exhibits that will give a new perspective on food and production agriculture.

Meet at the Center on **Tuesday September 9 Tickets payable at the door \$11 for seniors 10am-12noon for tour of the building, greenhouse, review of adult programming.**

Lunch (dutch treat) afterwards at their in-house restaurant **The Colorful Plate Café**

#### **Sand Casted Birdbath Class**

On June 18, the Rome Garden Club sponsored an event to teach area gardeners how to make sand-casted birdbaths. Laurie Francis welcomed us to her garage, and she and Boots Stolt explained how to choose appropriate leaves with strong veining patterns to make the best-looking birdbaths. After mounding sand onto our work surface and covering the sand with plastic, we placed rhubarb leaves onto the plastic. We carefully mixed water into the concrete mix, and then patted concrete on top of the leaves. After drying

for 48-72 hours, the leaves can be peeled from the concrete, leaving behind the sand-casted birdbath. Once we seal the birdbaths, we can set them out in our gardens to admire.

Thanks again to Laurie and Boots for hosting this enjoyable event!





# Marshfield Area Respite Care Center

Sunday, July 13th, 2025 1-4pm Cost \$10

Gardens:

Geri & David Mirko, 303 W. Park St.

Linda & Mark Kingston, 1136 W. Ives

Jennifer & David Gaulke, 508 Bluebird Ln.

Kris & Mike Coleman, 301 S. Vine Ave.

Heather & Kori Krueger, 203700 Callaway Dr. East

Mark and Jill Meyers, 11982 County Road T

-Included is a tour of Mark's historic Railroad Museum

There will be a tea with treats at the

Wesley United Methodist Church 1-4:30 pm

Also, a door prize registration and a raffle

Heart O'Wisconsin Sweet Adeline's at 2:00

Wisconsin Country Style Dancers 3:15

Tickets available at the

Marshfield Area Respite Care Center, Schalow's Nursery and Garden Center, the MACCI, Allied Co-op Country Store and the gardens the

day of the tour or for further information contact:

Marilyn Seidl-Kramer 715-384-8478 or 715-305-8224

## SPONSORS

STRATFORD SIGN CO.

JOEY'S OPTICAL

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SCHALOW'S NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER

2 1/2 CUPS

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Partner Program

# Calendar of Events\*

**July 19 Garden Walk\***

**July 22 Membership Meeting—Hydroponics\*WR Library**

**August 14 Monk Botanical Gardens Tour and NTC Tour\***

**August 19-24 Central WI State Fair**

**August 26 Membership Meeting-Rudolph Grotto –Picnic\***

**Sept. 9 Food+Farm Exploration Center\***

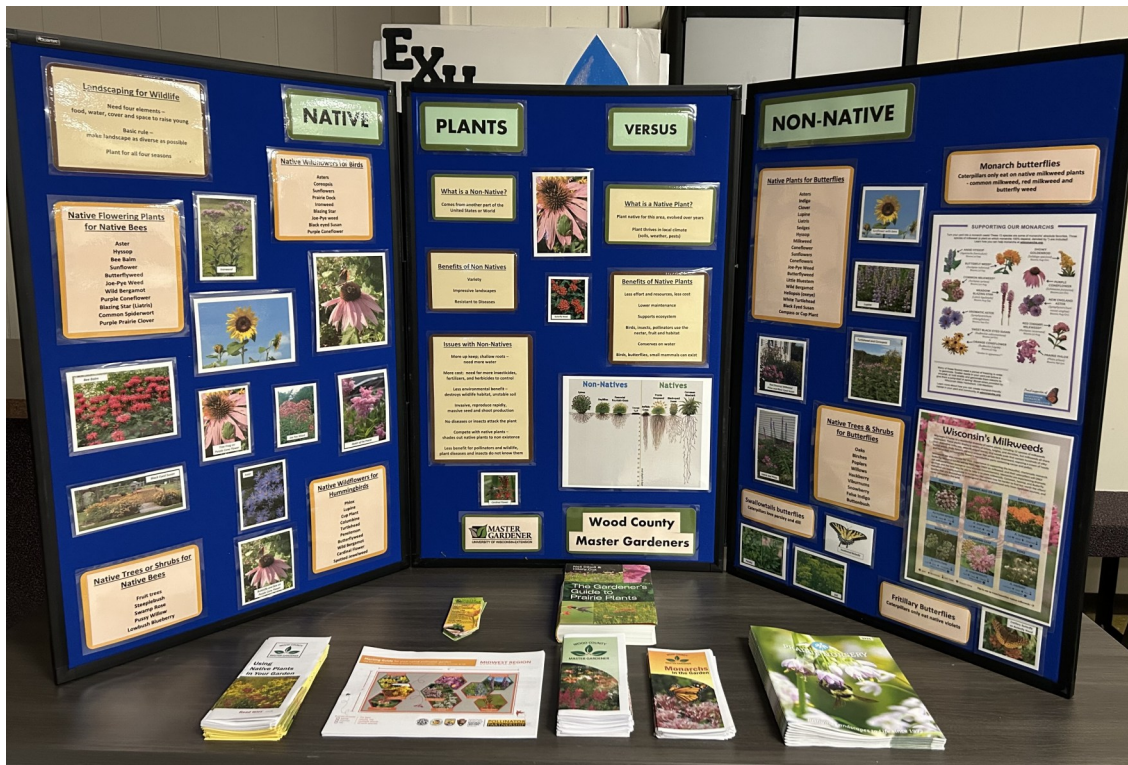
**Sept. 13-14 Fall Plant Sale\***

**September 23-Membership Meeting-Composting**

**October 28 Membership Meeting-Indoor Plant Lighting**

**November 18 Membership Meeting-Winter Social**

\*Refer to separate articles for more information about most of these listings, including times and links to register.



Our Native Plant vs. Non-Native Plant display board drew a great deal of interest at the 6th annual *State of Our Lakes* event hosted by the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance on [June 7th](#) at the Rome Town Hall.

—Great job! Laurie Francis, Barb Herreid and Deb Rokke



# July Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener 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.



## 2025 WCMGV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President—Chris Grimes**  
715-424-2878

**Vice President—Terrie Brown** 715-459-4248

**Secretary—Stacy Musch**  
715-204-6502

**Treasurer—Famia Marx**  
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Agent Janell Wehr** [janell.wehr@wisc.edu](mailto: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](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>

## 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. Succulents, bulbs, and house plants are always the first to go. Have any you can propagate?

Keep the Fall Plant Committee advised of your anticipated contributions so advertising and resources can be prepared before the sale.