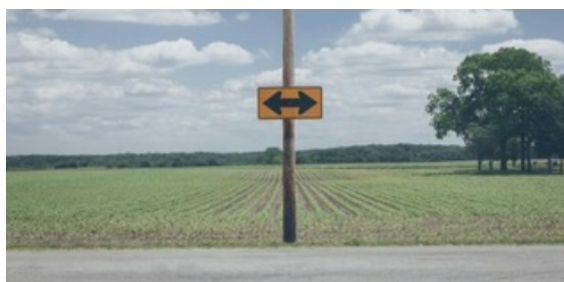


## President's Message



### **This Way or That Way?**

As our year comes to a close, not only are we recalling all the things we accomplished this year, but we're also looking back to 2022. That was the year we created a Strategic Plan; the blueprint for what we wanted to accomplish over the next few years. We were coming out of the pandemic, and we set our three big goals: to address member retention and recruitment, socialization (just having a little fun) and fostering education for ourselves and the community. Since then, we've accomplished a lot of what we hoped to do. We restarted the Garden Walk, planned some fun Road Trips, developed a Tuition Reimbursement program, revised educational brochures, developed a plan for new educational signage, increased our presence with the public via online media, held our plant sales, library programs and other events, navigated changes to the MG Program and documentation, and more! Now it's time to take another look. Where do we want to go in the next 5 years? How are we going to get there? What are the priorities that inform our choices? The BOD will be having preliminary talks about this soon, but next year it will be time to get your input as stakeholders in determining our direction. For now, please give careful thought to the questions on our dues survey, but look for future opportunities to learn more about our Strategic Plan and how you can help develop the new one for our future. Thanks for all the many things you do for WCMG!

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Chris

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# October Meeting Minutes

## Wood County Master Gardener Association General Membership Meeting October 28, 2025 - 6:00 pm Arpin Town Hall

### **Program: Indoor Plant Lighting with Famia Marx**

Total Present: 14 in person, 4 online - 18 total

**Business Meeting:** Called to order 7:07 pm by President Chris Grimes.

**Secretary's Report:** (Stacy) Minutes from September 23, 2025 were reviewed and put on file.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Famia) Report put on file.

**WIMGA Report:** (Karleen) Roots of Resilience recording is now on WIMGA site through November 9th. This is the last continuing ED program from WIMGA until the annual meeting. WIMGA now has a Facebook page for all members called WIMGA Group. They have started A Search for Excellence Award Program focusing on education, environmental impact & sustainability, and next generation youth education. This is different from the grant program.

### **Old Business:**

**Consultation Village of Biron:** Micky, Lil, Barb, and Connie met with the representatives. They have some concerns and more questions. They will continue to work with them.

**Nominations:** President - Terrie Brown; Vice-President - Chris Grimes; Secretary - Stacy Musch; Treasurer - Famia Marx; North Director - Lori Kilinski; South Director - Karen Shirek. Nominations will be open at the start of the next meeting and voting will take place at the next meeting.

### **New Business:**

**Dues Survey:** WIMGA did not increase dues this year. Our dues have not increased either. Dues Surveys were handed out at the meeting. If you were not present, one will be mailed to you. Dues and Surveys are due at our next meeting on November 18th.

**Strategic Planning:** As a membership we will be working on our strategic plan to define what we want to accomplish and make a plan to achieve those goals. The board will get things started, but everyone will be involved.

**Reminder:** Turn in vouchers ASAP, update your ORS, Project evaluations/Approval & Funding applications are due November 15th.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Garden Walk:** (Chris) Five gardens chosen for 2026 and they are looking for a 6th.

**Fall Plant Sale:** (Jill) This was our 9th plant sale. Bea was excellent at talking to everyone. Core people were unavailable for this last sale, which made things difficult. If everyone would pitch in a little bit, things would be better. Jill will not be coordinator going forward.

**Programs:** No changes

**Community Education Plans:** Karleen has organized the print materials. A list of the items has been printed in the past 2 newsletters. Looking for ideas for other print materials to add to the library.

**Adjournment:** M/S/P to adjourn at 7:37 PM.

**Next Meeting:** November 18, 2025 - 6:00 pm at Alexander House in Port Edwards. "US Botanical Gardens & Beyond" with Barb, Micky, and Jan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Musch, Secretary

# November Meeting Information



Celebrating Autumn and the End of our Year

Join the Festivities!

When: Tuesday, November 18, 6-9pm

Where: Alexander House  
1131 Wisconsin River Drive  
Port Edwards

What: Program: "US Botanical Gardens & Beyond"  
By Micky Erickson, Barb Herreid, & Jan Myers,

A short, but important Business Meeting w/  
Election of Officers

Followed by a celebration of our accomplishments this year..

Bring your favorite sweet or savory snack to share.

Directions (for Marshfield Drivers) Take Grand Avenue (73) into Wisconsin Rapids to the intersection of the railroad tracks and the expressway around town. Cross the railroad tracks and turn right onto the expressway. Just before the bridge over the Wisconsin River, turn right onto 2nd Avenue (WI 54-73). At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto WI 73 which is also Wisconsin River Drive. Alexander House is just past Edgewater Haven. When you arrive at the Alexander House, turn onto Jackson Avenue to access parking. It is recommended that all members consider car-pooling as parking is somewhat limited.

## **BOD nominations**

The Nominating Committee is recommending the following candidates for open BOD positions. The election will be held at our next meeting on November 18

President: Terrie Brown  
VP: Chris Grimes  
Secretary: Stacy Musch  
Treasurer: Famia Marx  
N Director: Lori Kilinski  
S Director: Karen Shirek

## **Membership Renewal & Dues Survey**

Membership renewal forms for 2026 were distributed at the October meeting. Forms will be mailed to members unable to attend that meeting. Due date to return the survey with your dues to Famia Marx, treasurer, is November 18. We look forward to your feedback and ideas, so please take a few minutes to complete the survey and consider projects or committees you can contribute to in 2026.

# 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 Evergreens    November 19    6:30 – 8:30pm**

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

### **Ask the Experts    November 17    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](#)

## **Marshfield Public Library Garden Guru Programs**

### **November 13    6pm    Choosing and Caring for Seasonal Plants**

Come and learn how to choose healthy poinsettias, cyclamen, Christmas cacti, and amaryllis to enhance your holiday decor. We will be talking about how to care for these plants so they last longer during the season. You will also learn tips for getting them to rebloom again the following year.

## **WIMGA Educational programs**

The recording on Roots of Resilience is available on the WIMGA website until November 9 Log into the WIMGA website members only tab for the link.

The next program will be in January in conjunction with the annual meeting.





# Plant Sales—A Look Back

## Plant Sales from 2021 to 2025

We just finished our 9<sup>th</sup> plant sale after covid with the first one being fall 2021. Micky volunteered to organize a simple spring sale in 2022. Two sale elements before covid were funded plant purchases and membership plant digs. With a decrease in funds and the issue of jumping worms, our sale items or products offered needed to change. The sale of perennials was expanded to annuals; bulbs, houseplants, winter-sown natives, seeds, succulents and vegetables. Our sales also benefit from coinciding with Port Edwards Rummage sales and Marshfield's Maple Fall Fest.



As our sales continued, it became clear that we needed to provide an educational element to help members refresh or build skills in growing, gathering and preparing products for the sale. This was accomplished with monthly newsletter articles and continuing education. In 2023, we added the Plant Sale Buzz with hints and reminders.

Next was to strive to move members' mindset to plan and prepare in advance as needed for their donations, such as Donna does with her winter-sowing of natives; which is always a busy table during our sales. An example of this is, after we provided a list of plants that are used to make the popular dry arrangement bouquets, the membership responded with the donations needed for future sales. We also need all members to support both spring and fall sales and not fall into a north south division. They also need to understand that there is a transition from one sale to the next. Leftover plants and those not ready for sale should be cared for and monitored to ensure they remain healthy and ready for future events.

A key issue this year was the lack of pricing knowledge and how to set up for the sale. The absence of several core members—who typically bring valuable experience in pricing and organizing—had a noticeable impact on the fall 2025 sale. Without their expertise, pricing was not always consistent and was delayed during setup. Perhaps we need more planning in this area.

We are progressing in our marketing and advertisements with the recent use of QR codes and social media.

A recap of expenses and profits

| Year | Spring Profit | Expense | Fall Profit | Expense |
|------|---------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| 2021 | NA            | NA      | \$3,622     | \$967   |
| 2022 | \$1,549       | zero    | \$3,367     | \$833   |
| 2023 | \$3,000       | \$234   | \$4,493     | \$947   |
| 2024 | \$2,072       | \$401   | \$3,925     | \$1,004 |
| 2025 | \$1,861       | \$371   | \$3,030?    | \$966?  |

After coordinating eight plant sales, I have decided to take a break from coordinating.

Thank you for your support. Jill Becker

# Plant Sale Buzz

## Planning for Next Year



### Annual and Perennial Plant Propagation

Now is a good time to check for seeds on any of your annuals or perennials. Keep the seeds for winter sowing or for spring starting for the plant sales. **It**

**DOES NOT have to be native seeds.** Any plants we can grow ourselves reduces the number we might have to buy.

If you are collecting native seeds, the Prairie Moon Nursery website has pictures of what the seeds look like if you are unsure that you are collecting the right parts. Allow seeds to mature on the plant until they are easy to remove. Immature seeds will not germinate.

If you plan to winter sow, start to collect containers and purchase potting soil. In January it may be hard to find potting soil. Even if it is available it might be frozen and hard to separate the bags at the store. Keep a bag in the garage or a shed and remember to bring it in to thaw before planting.

As for containers, milk jugs work very well with their built in handles. Half gallon or gallon clear or translucent jugs from juice, water, and drinks, etc .also count. Don't forget 2-liter clear pop bottles. Green plastic bottles do not work. Any other deep clear containers can also be used such as clam-shells fruit or take out meals come in.

Directions for winter sowing will be provided in the December or January newsletter. Keep them until you are ready to plant. Garden Guru in January will be a workshop on winter sowing.

See the next page for native seeds available from Donnaor Stacy. If you want any of these seeds for winter sowing, let her know so she can bring them to the November meeting. You may also order other seeds from Prairie Moon Nursery: [Prairie Moon Nursery: Storefront](#)

### Dry arrangement materials

As you tidy up your gardens this fall, be on the lookout for seed heads that would make interesting arrangements for next fall. To save space for keeping them, tie into bundles and hang from shed or garage rafters to keep them out of the way. Suspend inside a paper bag if they are going to drop seeds, to keep the area tidy.

### Houseplants and succulents

Take cuttings and start new plants now so they are ready for sales next year.

### Greenhouse Space

If you know of someone who is able to overwinter plants or has the facilities available for them, or us, to grow plants for sales, please let a member of the plant sale committee or the board know.

### Sale Dates

Spring Sale-tentatively the third weekend in May

Fall Sale-September 19-20

## Native Seeds for Winter Sowing Available from Donna

**Email Donna if you wish to have her bring seeds for you at the November meeting.**

|                        |                              |                            |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Great Blue Lobelia     | Cardinal Flower              | Purple coneflower          |
| Yellow Coneflower      | Goat's Beard                 | Anise Hyssop               |
| Lupine                 | Blue Indigo                  | Woodland Sunflower         |
| Red Milkweed           | Joe Pye Weed                 | Culver's Root              |
| Ironweed               | Royal Catchfly               | White turtlehead           |
| Lead Plant             | Tallbellflower               | Pink Turtlehead            |
| Golden Alexander       | Foxglove(smooth) beardtongue | Bonest                     |
| Northern Blue Flag     | Narrow-leaved Coneflower     | Amethyst Shooting Star     |
| Thimbleweed            | Shinig Bedstraw              | Jacob's Ladder             |
| Stout Blue-eyed Grass  | Orange Coneflower            | Small Skullcap             |
| Blue-stemmed Goldenrod | Silky Aster                  | Plains Oval Sedge          |
| Common Wood Sedge      | Short-headed Bracted Sedge   | Prairie Coreopsis          |
| Bush's Coneflower      | Hoary Vervain                | Hairy Beardtongue          |
| Downy Wood Mint        | Cream Gentian                | Pale Purple Coneflower     |
| Wild Petunia           | Columbine                    | Rattlesnake Master         |
| Prairie Blazing Star   | Short's Aster                | Prairie Alumroot           |
| Lance-feaf Coreopsis   | Prairie Aster                | Pale Beardtongue           |
| Whorled Milkweed       | Western Sunflower            | Large-flowered Beardtongue |
| Black-eyed Susan       | Sweet Joe Pye Weed           | Showy Beardtongue          |
| Wood Betony            | Ear-leaved Brome             | Butterfly Weed             |
| Long-headed Cneflower  | Midland Shooting Star        | Small Yellow Indigo        |
| Dwarf Blue indigo      | White Wild indigo            | Purple Prairie Clover      |
| Purple Love Grass      | Drummond's Aster             | Wild Bergamot              |
| Smooth Blue Aster      | White Prairie Clover         | Spotted Bee Balm           |
| Partridge Pea (annual) | Big-leaved Aster             | Bush's Poppy Mallow        |
| Zigzag Goldenrod       | Side Oats Grama              |                            |

Ordering:      Blue sage      Prairie Phlox      Bishop's Cap

**Stacy has the following seeds. Contact her if you want any of these.**

|                 |                   |                     |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Early Sunflower | Smooth Blue Aster | Old Field Goldenrod |
| Joe Pye Weed    | Anise Hyssop      | Wild Bergamot       |
| Wild Columbine  | Black-eyed Susan  |                     |



# November Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener Website

- Finish planting spring bulbs.
- Prepare new perennial beds for spring planting. Soil will be conditioned over winter.
- With sunny conditions, paper-white narcissus planted indoors about mid November will bloom for Christmas.
- After ground freezes, mulch azaleas and rhododendrons with chopped oak leaves or pine needles. Perennial beds should also be mulched with coarse material such as marsh hay.
- Do not smother self-sowing annual beds with heavy mulch.
- Reduce watering and feeding houseplants as lower light conditions of winter approach.
- Test soil if you haven't done so recently.
- Clean window boxes and outdoor planters, fill with greens and berries or other seasonal display.
- Mulch carrots, parsnips and leeks with a foot of straw or marsh hay for winter digging. Mark rows with stakes.
- Mulch asparagus bed with chopped leaves or straw to protect crowns from frost.
- Inventory, clean, repair and coat the metal parts of garden tools with vegetable oil before storing.
- Drain gasoline from tiller.
- Harvest the last of the hardy vegetables, such as Chinese cabbage, Brussels sprouts and kale. These will continue to produce until a frost below 25 degrees F.
- Harvest vegetables to be stored indoors before ground freezes.
- Heavily water trees and shrubs before ground freezes. This helps prevent winter burn on evergreens.
- Cut back fall blooming hydrangeas, leaving one or two pairs of buds on each flower stem.
- Wrap the trunks of young shade trees and fruit trees to protect them from animal damage and sunscald.
- Make one last lawn mowing, setting blade one-half inch lower than usual. Drain gas from mowers.
- Cut to the ground any summer bearing raspberry or blackberry canes that have fruited this year.
- Dormant pruning of black, yellow and purple raspberries is done by shortening all lateral branches to 15 inches.
- Prune grapevines.
- Mulch strawberries and bramble fruits after the ground has frozen, but before the temperature falls below 15 degrees (usually late November.) Apply 2-4 inches of straw or marsh hay.
- Enjoy the end of the gardening season!



Eric Petersen / The Livingston Enterprise



## 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**  
715-652-2405

**Director—Bea Kohl** 715-423-8908

**Director—Carolyn Schu-  
lein** 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](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

Be sure to record your hours in ORS as the year closes. Deadline is December 31.

Make your plans for growing plants or other materials for the plant sales.

Email Donna or Stacy to let her know what seeds you may want her to bring to the November meeting.

If you know of someone who is able to overwinter plants or has the facilities available for them, or us, to grow plants for sale, please let a member of the plant sale committee or the board know.

Dues and survey due to Famia by Nov. 15 or at the meeting on the 18th.

Project Self-Evaluations are due to County Extension Office by Nov 15.

Project Approval and Funding Requests are also due to County Extension Office by Nov 15.