



Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County Wisconsin

August 2026

President's Message

Our summer months are fleeting and August is upon us. It is the month that kids return to school, we participate in the Central Wisconsin State Fair, we wrap up the Garden Walk and prepare for the Fall Plant Sale.

A huge thank you to all who made the Garden Walk a success. We cannot thank enough our hosts, our artists, our organizers and all of the volunteers who made it a wonderful day!

Jill, Bea and others are busily planning for the plant sale and the Ask a Master Gardener booth at the fair. If you have not signed up to help with these, please consider doing so, then, contact either Bea or Jill.

I am excited for our August meeting and potluck. We will have a tour of Powers Bluff led by Dr. Robert Freckmann. He will be teaching us about prairie restoration on the north side of the bluff and the forest ecosystem at the top of the bluff. Our potluck and general meeting will be held at the Arpin Municipal Building in Arpin. See additional information in this newsletter.

We continue work on our strategic plan. At our June meeting, we separated into 5 groups to brainstorm interventions for each of the areas of focus. Next steps will be to narrow them down and prioritize them. Stay tuned for more to come!

We will have two Board positions to fill at the end of this year. One from the north and one from the south. Please consider serving in those roles. Our organization cannot function without members willing to lead.

In closing, August signals the waning of summer. Gardens are sharing their bounty of vegetables. We slide in those last vacation days before kids head back to school. Birds begin their fall migration. To me, it's a time of reflection and a time of anticipation. Those beautiful, cool fall days are a welcome respite from the sometimes hot, sultry summer days. Like summer, fall in Wisconsin has much to offer. Take time to relish the blooms and the lush greenery. Soon it will be replaced by Mother Nature's fall color palette, the harbinger of winter.

Happy Harvesting!!

Terrie

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August Membership Meeting

Powers Bluff Tour 5:00pm-6:30pm

Meet at Visitor's Center

7073 County N, Arpin

We're planning a special evening at Powers Bluff with a tour of the new Prairie Restoration Project and the Bluff's woodland ecosystem with Dr. Robert Freckman, renowned botanist and Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame member!

Following our botanical tour, dinner at Arpin Municipal Hall with short business meeting after dinner.



Picnic: Village of Arpin Municipal Hall

6190 Main Street, Arpin

6:35-?

Fried chicken, water, tableware, & Ice cream sundaes provided by WCMG. Bring:

- Your own beverage if you prefer something other than water
- Your favorite dish to pass
- Your spouse/partner/best friend

RSVP to Terrie Brown by Sunday, August 16 so we have enough chicken.

Arpin Municipal Hall will be open at 4:30 pm to bring your potluck items. Refrigeration and electrical outlets are available.

Bring a chair in case it's a nice evening and you want to sit outside.

July Meeting Minutes

Wood County Master Gardener Association General Membership Meeting July 28, 2026 - 6:00 pm Mill Creek Gardens - Marshfield

Program: Mill Creek Gardens Tour

Total Present: 21 total (all in person, no Zoom option)

Business Meeting: Called to order 7:32 by President Terrie Brown.

Secretary's Report: (Stacy) Minutes from June 23, 2026 were reviewed and put on file.

Treasurer's Report: (Famia) Treasurer's report reviewed and put on file.

WIMGA Report: No report

Committee Reports:

Plant Sale: (Jill) Purchased plants from Wunrows and Tender Shoots. They will be meeting with Terry Gear to look at more and be purchasing more hostas. Posters and quarter sheet save the dates were distributed.

Community Education Plans: Fair Booth signup sheet went around again. Talked about splitting up the Ask a Master Gardener booth items so we have them in 2 locations instead of just 1.

Garden Walk: (Lil) Garden Walk went really well. People really loved the orchestra playing. Attendance was slightly down from last year, we are thinking because of the hot and smoky weather. Final numbers are not out yet, but will be shared once compiled.

Socialization Committee: (Audrey) Lavender Farm trip is Thursday, August 30th. There are about 9 people signed up and they will meet in the Wisconsin Rapids Walmart parking lot at 9:00 am to car-pool.

Programs: (Terrie) Our next meeting will be at Powers Bluff with a tour beginning at 5:00 pm with Dr. Freckmann. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. After the tour, members and spouses will meet back at the Arpin Town Hall for our potluck picnic (the hall will be open at 4:30 if anyone wants to drop off food items before heading to Powers Bluff). Chicken will be provided, everyone please bring a dish to pass.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning - we ran out of time so this was tabled to a later date. Everyone please review and write down your thoughts for when we can circle back..

New Business:

Upcoming Leadership Vacancies - We are looking for 2 Director positions, one for the South and one for the North, as well as Vice President and possibly President. Sheets were passed around with the duties for each position. If anyone has questions or would like more information, please contact Terrie.

Digital Payments - Stacy and Terrie demonstrated how Venmo works. This is the best and most inexpensive way to accept payments at the plant sale and can be useful for the Garden Walk as well. Stacy and Famia will meet to get it set up and Stacy will make signs with the QR code to display at events.

Facebook - Multiple fun video posts were made for the Garden Walk and our followers increased by over 100. We need to keep posting to continue increasing our engagement. Chris, Trevor, and Stacy will be posting and if anyone else is interested, please contact Chris.

Adjournment: M/S/P to adjourn at 8:20 PM.

Next Meeting: August 18th at Powers Bluff followed by the Arpin Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Musch, Secretary

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 without having to travel or pay for conferences, etc.

Ask the Experts is back!! Now renamed **Ask Your Gardening Question Live**, it will be on Wednesdays at either 1:30—2:30pm or 6:30—7:30pm, not both in one day. The August session is on **August 19 at 1:30**. To register for the zoom invite go to: [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 [2026 PDDC Monthly Disease Talk Registration Form | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic](#)

Hosta Diseases August 26 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Join Brian Hudelson (of the PDDC and affectionately known as “Dr. Death”) to learn about common diseases of hostas. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.

Marshfield Public Library Garden Guru Program

Thursday August 20 6pm The Importance of Using Native Plants in Your Landscape

From supporting pollinators and the local ecosystem to decreasing the work and expense of maintaining your yard, native plants have many advantages over non-native and hybrid plants. Come and learn from Wood County Master Gardeners about how you can incorporate them into your existing landscape.

Melinda Myers Webinars

Tree Planting and Care September 3 6:30pm

Trees are the long-lasting framework of our landscape. They provide beauty, clean our air, cool us and our environment with their shade, and help manage stormwater. Proper planting is critical to the health and longevity of your plants. Melinda Myers will provide step-by-step tips for planting trees and the care needed to keep them healthy and a long-lived, beautiful part of your landscape. Sponsored by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Rome Area Garden Chats 2026 Events

April 15
9:30-10:30



Growing Rhubarb and Asparagus
Discussion Led Becky Gutzman

May 6
9:30-10:30



***Design and Plant a Container**
Make-and-Take at Foss's Garden Center

June 17
9:30-10:30



+Crafting Outdoor Wind Chimes
Make-and-Take with Laurie and Boots

July 15
9:30-10:30



Grow, Harvest and Preserve Herbs
Discussion Led by Donna Streiff

August 19
9:30-10:30



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Discussion Led by Janell Wehr

Sept. 16
9:30-10:30



Designing a Landscape
Discussion Led by Janell Wehr

Oct. 21
9:30-10:30



+Forcing Bulbs for Christmas
Make-and-Take with Laurie Francis

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



*Participants will purchase plants for their containers from Foss's Garden Center. Containers may be brought from home or purchased from Foss's. Please register in advance at the library.
+A small fee will be charged. Please register and pay in advance at the library. Payment upon registration is required.

How excessive heat affects the vegetable garden

Authors: Marissa Schuh and Natalie Hoidal, Extension food systems educators, University of Minnesota

Reviewed in 2025

During long stretches of hot days in the 80s and 90s, you may experience disappointing yields in your vegetable garden. Bushy cucumber plants with no fruit, tomatoes not ripening, and beans with no flowers are typical.

The causes behind many of these phenomena are related to persistent high temperatures. High temperatures affect Minnesota's vegetables in various ways.

Plants look healthy, but no vegetables develop

Potential issue: Too much fertilization

Giving some vegetables too much nitrogen results in lush green plants, but no harvestable vegetables. Vining vegetables are especially prone to this.

Make sure you are fertilizing appropriately for the weather and the plant you are trying to grow.

Potential issue: Hot day and nighttime temperatures cause flowers to drop

If you are still seeing flowers, but aren't getting the tomatoes, peppers, beans, or zucchini you expect, there may be a few heat-related factors at play.

One possible factor is flower abortion: flowers form but then die and fall off the plant before they can develop into fruit. This can also occur in vegetables and other flowering garden plants. Flower abortion can happen at temperatures ranging from 75°F to 95°F.

Some plants may retain their flowers, but if they are not pollinated, no fruit results. Tomatoes produce new flowers frequently, and these flowers have a 50-hour window in which they can be pollinated.

When tomatoes are exposed to sustained hot temperatures (more than 85°F during the day and 70°F at night), the tomato plant becomes stressed and depletes its energy stores. This changes the flowers, making it harder for them to be pollinated, and the blossom often drops without pollination occurring. During 50-hour periods with hot days and especially hot nights, a round of tomato flowers is likely to drop off without pollination.

You may start to notice something similar happening with green beans, which can also abort flowers in hot temperatures (over 95°F), especially if the soil is dry.



Potential issue: Hot temperatures change the type of flowers some vegetables produce



The maroon arrow points to a female zucchini flower, while the yellow arrow points to a male flower. Photo: Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Vining vegetables in the cucurbit family (including pumpkins, squash, melons, cucumbers, and the like) produce both male and female flowers. Look at the base of the flower to tell the sex.

Female cucurbit flowers will be swollen underneath in the area that will eventually become the pumpkin, zucchini, etc. Male flowers will have just a straight stem.

Depending on the variety of the vine crops, hot temperatures can alter the ratio of male to female flowers. Typically, high temperatures (over 90°F during the day and 70°F at night) develop more male flowers than female flowers. This means that you may see zucchini plants with prolific flowers and few fruits, because the flowers are all male.

Potential issue: Many bees don't like it hot



Cucumbers develop odd and uneven shapes when not fully pollinated. Photo: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org

In crops that depend on pollinators, such as members of the vine crop family, hot weather can impact bee activity, causing reduced fruit set. Just as we like to take it easy and rest in the shade on a hot day, so do many bees.

The ideal range for pollination for many species of bees is between 60°F and 90°F, with hotter temperatures in this range promoting more pollination. Once the temperature reaches 90°F, many bees slow down and pollinate less. This can be especially pronounced in crops like cucumbers, whose small flowers aren't particularly attractive to many bees.

Pollination may occur, but not at a high enough level. This can lead to deformed cucumbers, summer squash and melons.

vegetables don't ripen

Potential issue 1: Poor pollination results in fruit that can't grow



This pumpkin was poorly pollinated, resulting in its death and subsequent rot. Photo: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo,

Small squashes, pumpkins and melons form but then rot. You may think that this is caused by disease, as the small fruit are often breaking down, soft, and covered in mold.

A more common cause is poor pollination. Just as poor pollination can result in misshapen fruits, it can also result in fruit that form and then quickly die.

Green beans can have similar issues. During periods of hot weather bean flowers produce less pollen, which cascades into fewer, smaller pods containing fewer, smaller beans.

Potential issue: Hot nights mean fruit doesn't ripen



Ripe green tomatoes will have fully formed seeds surrounded by clear jelly. These green tomatoes are almost ripe.

Tomato ripening happens in two stages. In the first stage of ripening, the tomato becomes mature and is green, seeds form, and the area around them becomes soft and gelatinous. (If you've ever had fried green tomatoes, you are eating a mature green tomato.) In the second stage, the tomato fruit turns red.

The optimum temperature range for tomato maturation is between 68°F and 77°F, while the pigments that turn ripe tomatoes red aren't produced above 85°F. Once you start to experience some cooler nights, tomatoes will again have several hours within their ideal ripening temperature range, allowing them to fully ripen and redden.

Potential issue: You need to be patient

Vegetables take time to get ripe. There may be nothing out of the ordinary going on in the garden. Tomatoes can take six to eight weeks to fully ripen and change color, and some vine crops, like pumpkins, can take just as long.

Unfortunately, there really isn't much to be done but wait out the hot temperatures. Cool nights will solve many of these issues. You can check the latest 30-day forecast from the National Weather Service to see when relief is in sight.

Take notes on how your vegetable varieties are performing, and consider trying a new heat-tolerant variety in the future.



Bring Back the Fireflies!

Small changes in your yard can help fireflies thrive

Summer evenings used to come with a light show. Warm air, bare feet, and tiny sparks drifting through the dark – fireflies were part of what made the season feel alive.

Are you seeing as many as you used to? For many people, the answer is no. Firefly populations are declining across North America. Habitat loss, pesticides and light pollution are all taking a toll. But the story doesn't have to end there.

Why Fireflies Matter: Fireflies aren't just beautiful. They're part of how healthy ecosystems work. More than 2,000 species exist worldwide and many are at risk. Firefly larvae are predators. They hunt snails, slugs and other soil invertebrates, keeping things in balance in leaf litter and underground. Most species depend on specific habitats: Wetlands, meadows and forest edges where moist soil and natural cover give them what they need to complete their life cycle. When those places disappear, so do the fireflies.

• Six Ways to Make Your Yard Firefly-Friendly

1. **Plant native:** Native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs support the insects fireflies eat.
2. **Dim outdoor lights:** Switch to yellow bulbs, use motion sensors and point lights downward. Turn off anything that doesn't need to be on after dark.
3. **Skip the fogging:** If mosquitoes are the issue, try the Mosquito Bucket Challenge instead. It targets larvae without harming fireflies, pollinators or other wildlife.
4. **Leave the leaf litter:** Firefly larvae live in moist soil and decomposing leaves. That pile you were going to bag? Leave it.
5. **Leave some decaying wood:** Rotting logs and stumps provide the shelter and moisture firefly larvae need to survive.
6. **Create a no-mow zone:** Even a small corner where plants can grow undisturbed gives fireflies space to complete their life cycle.

You don't have to be the last generation to see them

Fireflies are struggling. But they're also resilient. When habitat comes back, they return. The choices happening in yards right now will shape whether kids see fireflies on summer evenings for years to come.

(Above information was excerpted from a Homegrown National Park article.)

An Old Project is Getting a New Life



The Master Gardeners are once again assisting with the maintenance of the Wildwood Zoo gardens. Earlier in the year, we provided spring cleanup by clearing old growth from many garden areas. In following previous practices, we used the trimmed remnants as mulch to help provide a barrier to weeds. After the threat of frost, we planted annual flowers in each of three large pots, one at each entrance. A few weeks later, 8 yards of shredded bark was delivered by Marshfield Park & Rec for us to spread on gardens of

our choice. Since the garden areas are many and expansive, we chose 5 areas in which to spread the mulch. As everywhere, weeds are prolific, so weeding is a non-stop effort. Most recently, we weeded the large Memorial Garden near the eagle display and then proceeded to weed and cut back some overgrown natives between the bear fences. Thankfully, Muncy and Boda (the bears) were locked across the bridge, assuring our safety. ☺ If anyone is interested in joining our effort to keep the zoo beautiful, please contact me.

Rita Meier

From Beckie Gaskill. Education Coordination for the Zoo

My vision for the zoo is to create a place where people not only come to see our cool exhibit animals but also come to learn and to connect with nature. We have seen a big rise in depression and anxiety in youth today, and part of that is linked to them not feeling as though they belong. I want the zoo to help create that sense of place that both youth and adults so desperately need in today's world. I want a place where people can come to just "be."

Marshfield is obviously a community with a large medical presence. Having been in the role of caregiver through my late husband's 2.5-year fight with pancreatic cancer, I know how important those quiet spaces are. We see many patients coming through the zoo, as well as groups of nurses and other medical staff. All of them are simply looking for a quiet space to just breathe and "be" also.

The parks department has started work on the seating pods along the stream that runs through the zoo. My vision for those pods is to use them for arts and music education as well as ecological education. As a Master Naturalist, my goal is to help to create the next generation of conservationists, and I believe the zoo is a great place to do just that!

I'm looking forward to working with the Master Gardeners to enhance and improve our natural spaces throughout the zoo. I'm excited about what the future has to hold for this adventure!

Thanks for helping me get the word out about my vision and thank you even more for all the help the Master Gardeners are already giving!

Central Wisconsin State Fair

The question/education info wheel will be used during the CWSF Aug 25th to 30th. Set-up is August 24th. Booth shifts are 4 hours 10am-2:00pm or 2:00pm-6pm, you can ask for a longer shift. Tell Bea or Jill what shift you would like.

Two members staff the booth with supporting "Ask a Master Gardener" reference materials available. You don't have to know the answer to a question but you can take down information on the problem and contact info and we can research and get back to the person. Access to a cell phone would maybe help in finding an answer on site. We will only have one parking pass for closer parking this year so it will have to be passed along once the schedule is set. Workers will receive a day pass to get into the fair.

Janell Wehr will be working Tues 12-4pm, Thurs 1-3:30pm and Fri 11am-3:30pm- Fri.

Open slots:

Monday, Set-up- **1 or 2 people**

Tues, Aug 25th **2-6pm—1 person**

Wed, Aug 26th **10am-2pm--1 needed** and **2-6pm--1 needed**

Thurs, Aug 27th **2:00-6pm--1 needed**

Fri, Aug 28th **2:00-6pm--1 needed**

Sat, Aug **2:00-6pm - 2 needed**

Sun, Aug 30th **2:00- 6pm--1 person needed**

Take down and clean up Sunday 6pm August 30th--**1 or 2 people needed**

Please note the date and time you have selected to help on your calendar.

Click on this link to see what grandstand music events are available each night -

www.centralwisconsinstatefair.com/events/grandstand

Entrance tickets and parking pass are included with your entry fee.

www.centralwisconsinstatefair.com/p/getinvolved/exhibitors---open-class



PLANT SALE BUZZ



Work Schedule

Check your calendars to see if you have September 19 & 20 showing the fall plant sale.

Setup: Sept. 18th – Friday at 9am till done. Personnel need 12-15. Come when you can. However, we need about 8 people close to 9am to set up the huge white tent.

RIGHT NOW

Would you buy an item from retail that is missing its information tag or “how to set-up” instructions? Maybe if you are familiar with the product. Buyers adding something **new** to their flower beds want to know:

- what conditions it grows best in,
- the color and time of the bloom or
- if it has unique characteristics – leaf shape, leaf marking, etc.

By having reference photos and lists available to our plant sale buyer, we should increase our profits. Do your part – so we can prepare posters, table signage and a plant list of available items to inform our customers and volunteer staff what we have to offer. **Please submit your intended list of donations as soon as possible so this information can be included, like in the next week or two. E-mail to Jill a list of your plants, bulbs, seeds, dry materials, garden treasures - art/decor/tools, etc. SOON!! It helps with sale signage, staffing and having enough sale tables. E-mail to Donna any native plants you are growing. If you later decide not to bring that plant, that is OK.**

WHEN PREPARING YOUR PLANTS FOR THE SALE

- Propagate by dividing potted plants or taking cuttings to place in water or a pot of soil. Four methods explained: www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=what+plants+can+be+propagated&mid=441DD80B010279D22EAF441DD80B010279D22EAF&FORM=VIRE
- Use good quality commercial potting soil.
- Protect plants from jumping worms by placing them on a tarp on the ground, placing them on top of a couple layers of landscape fabric, or setting them above the ground on a piece of wood or a rack. (Be aware that tarps hold water, so after a rain, empty the water from the tarp to avoid soggy plants.)
- Look for nice pots or baskets to set your potted plant in, to increase its sale value, esp. for house plants.
- Start creating your labels. Label plants using the WCMGV label format. Name/light needs/bloom color, etc. **Plants sell if they have a picture of it in bloom**, so start your collection now. The Master Gardener plant tag format is included for you to copy. If you have a large number of plants and wish to have a computer format to print multiple labels at once instead of hand writing each label, email or call Donna and she will send you a computer format.

Bulbs

Bulbs need to be rid of all soil and washed and dried. Package with name and plant information like you would for live plants, as well as planting depth. **Let Jill or Bea know what you can bring.**

Seeds

Continue watching for and collecting mature seeds to package for sale at Maple Fall Fest. Package up seeds with planting instructions and plant information, just like for live plants. If you have packets of 2026 unused seeds, we can sell those too. **Again, let Jill or Bea know what you can bring.**

Dried Plant Material for Arrangements

Collect any of the following during August from your garden or your neighbors' gardens. Dry them for fall bouquets (a major money-maker at the sale). Your quantity of materials collected does not matter. Every little bit counts! Some suggestions:

Monarda, Purple Lovegrass, Woodland Rye, Downy Phlox, False Sunflower (ox-eye), Indian Paintbrush, Liatris, Curly willow branches, Clover flowers, Stems of lavender, Pampas grass, Rose hips, Bachelor buttons, Celosia, Globe amaranth, Blackberry lily, Ox-Eyed daisy, Baptisia seed pods, Amaranthus, Hyssop, Iris seed heads, Statice, Artemesia, Sea holly, Cone flowers, Chinese lanterns, Everlastings/Straw flowers, Penstemon, Poppy seed heads, Sage, Tall marigolds, Hydrangeas of any kind, Goldenrod (not yet gone to seed), Boneset (not too mature), Black-eyed Susan, Joe Pye Weed (not too mature), Wheat & oats sheaves, ornamental millet grasses(wild and domestic, not yet dropping seeds), Chives and other alliums,

Winter sowing propagators:

- Mulching plants will cut down on watering and weeding. Chopped straw works well.
- Keep plants from sitting directly on bare soil(see above for jumping worm info).
- Protect plants from deer and rabbits. Not all natives are resistant to browsers.
- You can fertilize now and again the end of August if they look like they need a boost.

Garden Art/Décor/Tools/Equipment

Again, let one of the committee members know of your creations, donations etc. as soon as possible. All donations must be clean and in good working order.

IMPORTANT – Do this now to reduce your stress levels in September.

PLEASE, PLEASE

Let one of the committee members know what you are planning to bring to the sale. You are not bound to your reply, but it takes time to get information and pictures prepared for as many plants as we can to help shoppers make their selections. It is easier to delete information than to add it at the last minute. The more information we can give shoppers, the more sales we can generate. Donna prepares information for the native plants and Bea and Jill need to know non-native and non-plant items to plan for adequate space and signage.



Common Name _____

Botanical Name _____

Light Sun Part Sun Part Shade Shade
Height _____

Bloom Color _____

Bloom Time _____

Comments _____



Common Name _____

Botanical Name _____

Light Sun Part Sun Part Shade Shade
Height _____

Bloom Color _____

Bloom Time _____

Comments _____



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Comments _____

Garden Walk Updates 2026: held July 18, 2026

Our heartfelt thanks to all for helping to make Garden Walk 2026 so successful!

- Lily



SUCCESS! Over \$1100 raised at basket raffle & silent auction!



Anne created 6 "appreciation" baskets for musicians & artists



The Mariachi band in Garden 5 was a total hit!



Donna in Garden 6 provided education on Composting basics



Our dynamic raffle basket team:
Jan & Barb



How could we do the walk without faithful volunteers???



Artist and vendor Bonnie Schneider in Garden 6



Musician Mary Cismoski in Garden 1



Hot & exhausted garden owner Cheryl, with WCMGs Lil and Debbie at the end of a hot day!

Calendar of Events*

August 18 Picnic and Tour of Powers Bluff

August 25-30 Central Wisconsin State Fair

Sept 19-20 Fall Plant Sale*

Sept 22 Membership Meeting-Native and Invasive Lookalikes

Oct 27 Membership Meeting-Know anyone who could speak on tool care and sharpening??

Nov 17 Membership Meeting-Wild Ones Speaker

*See additional information in this newsletter



Karli, our administrative assistant in the Extension office, will be on LOA from August 20 through the end of the year. In her absence, Wendy, (Wendy.young@woodcountywi.gov) will assist us with printing needs, newsletter mailing, etc. Please be sure to submit any printing needs to her at least a week before you need them.

NEEDED Speaker/demonstrator for our October meeting on tool care and sharpening. Can you share any knowledge you have, or know of anyone who could do this for our October meeting educational component? Let Terrie or a program committee member know.

OR an alternate program topic.



Also note, we have a policy of not printing phone numbers in Master Gardener articles, because of problems in the past of people using member numbers for phishing/scams. Please refer to the "Members Only" page of the Wood County Master Gardener website for phone and address info. Emails can also be used for phishing and scamming purposes, so check with the member before replying to any questionable requests supposedly from a MG.

August Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener website

- Mulch dahlias to conserve moisture and eliminate weeds.
- Stake plants with heavy blooms.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.
- Keep phlox plants deadheaded. Never let phlox go to seed if you want to keep colors true.
- Start seeds of daisy, coreopsis, Sweet William and pansy in peat pots or nursery beds. Transfer to permanent beds in late September or early October.
- Cut gladiolus blooms leaving maximum amount of foliage on plants.
- Transplant and divide iris and day lily.
- Watch for red spider mites on phlox.
- In mid-month, take cuttings of coleus, geraniums and other plants for winter houseplants.
- Plant chrysanthemums for fall color. Fall planted chrysanthemums need extra winter protection.
- Plant Madonna lily and Japanese and Siberian iris.
- Continue watering flowerbeds at least once a week during dry periods.
- Plant or transplant oriental poppies. Do not mulch, as they prefer hot, sun-baked ground.
- Bring poinsettias indoors.



- By the end of the month, start withholding water from amaryllis. Amaryllis requires an eight-week period of drought to bloom. Place in cool basement for three-month rest.
- Sow cover crops in vegetable garden areas not in use.
- Cut and dry or freeze herbs. Pick herbs just before blossoms open for best flavor.
- Inspect corn regularly. Corn pests become abundant in mid-August.
- Keep eggplant and peppers picked so younger fruit develops.

- Plant late crops of radishes, lettuce, spinach and beets.
- Mid-August to mid-September is the best time to establish grass seed. Keep soil moist at all times or seed will dry and die.
- Plant evergreens now through mid-September so they are well established before winter.
- Remove thatch from lawn if more than one-half inch thick.
- Tip layer black and purple raspberries for replacement.
- Fertilize strawberries with 10-10-10 fertilizer applied at 2-3 pounds per 100 square feet. Thin plants if needed.
- Maintain lime-sulfur spray program on tree fruit to control apple and pear scab and certain other diseases.
- Collect and bury diseased, mummified plums for future brown-rot control.



2026 WCMGV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Terrie Brown
715-459-4248

Vice President—Chris Grimes 715-424-2878

Secretary—Stacy Musch
715-204-6502

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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

Please review the Plant Sale Buzz article and **respond to the bolded items.**

Besides the Garden Walk, this is our only fund-raiser this year. We need to get as much planning done soon as we can to ensure a successful sale.

Do you know anyone who could speak/demo on tool care and sharpening for our October meeting? Let Terri know ASAP.

Pray for good weather for the Fall Plant Sale.