WOOD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County Wisconsin November 2026

President's Message

As our year draws to a close, I reflect on the past year. For me, my first year of presidency was a whirlwind of learning. I learned about the "inner" workings of the organization-the by-laws, the plan of work and the standard practices. I learned about all the "stuff" that needs to be done on a regular basis: the Zoom links, the agendas, the scheduling of speakers and venues. I could list many other things. But, most importantly, I learned firsthand how dedicated the members of this organization are. Members working tirelessly in the June and July heat to help ready gardens for the Garden Walk. Members taking time to work in project gardens to make them not only beautiful but educational. Members enthusiastically sharing knowledge and their love of gardening with fairgoers, library patrons and farmers' market shoppers. Members shared with others the bounty of community gardens. I am in awe of how hard we work and how much we accomplish in a year's time. A **BIG** thank you to all who served in any way.

While our past accomplishments were many, we look forward to the coming year. We will continue to work on finalizing our Strategic Plan. Strategic plans are never carved in stone but are living documents that change as our needs change.

Our last meeting of the year will be held at the Alexander House in Port Edwards at 6 PM on November 17th and will feature Jill Ziehr from Wild Ones. We will have a short business meeting with election of officers and then adjourn for social time.

I leave you with this quote by Marcel Proust, **"Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."**

A fitting tribute to who we are!

Happy Thanksgiving.

Terrie



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Wood County Master Gardener Association
General Membership Meeting
September 22, 2026 - 6:00 pm
Marshfield Public Library Felker Room

Program: Invasive Look-A-Likes with Kendra Wilhelm, Conservationist with Wood County Land and Water
Total Present: 16 total (15 in person, 1 via Zoom)

Business Meeting: Called to order 8:05 pm by President Terrie Brown.
Secretary's Report: (Stacy) Minutes from August 18, 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: (Bea/Jill) People were adaptive. We need to get more educated on our equipment/supplies. The team is looking for evaluation and input.
Education: (Stacy) Stacy will be doing a winter sowing workshop at McMillan.
Socialization Committee: No update
Programs: (Terrie) Our next meeting will be at McMillan Public Library. There will be no educational session, we will be discussing the strategic plan.

Old Business:
- Strategic Planning - committee is working on the next steps to formalizing the plan.
- Upcoming Leadership Vacancies - We are looking for 2 Director positions, one for the South and one for the North, as well as Vice President. If anyone has questions or would like more information, please contact Terrie.

New Business:
We will be putting a list together of all the expertise areas of our members. That way we can know who to look for if we need advice in certain areas.
Adjournment: M/S/P to adjourn at 8:09 PM.
Next Meeting: October 27th at McMillan Public Library at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Musch, Secretary

Wood County Master Gardener Association
General Membership Meeting
October 27, 2026 - 6:00 pm
McMillan Memorial Library All Purpose Room

Program: None
Total Present: 17 total (16 in person, 1 via Zoom)

Business Meeting: Called to order 6:05 pm by President Terrie Brown.
Secretary's Report: (Stacy) Minutes from September 22, 2026 were reviewed and put on file.
Treasurer's Report: (Famia) Treasurer's report reviewed and put on file.

WIMGA Report: A presidents meeting is coming up and Terrie will attend. There are upcoming webinars on November 4th, January 11th, and February 22nd. Watch emails for the WIMGA Newsletter and the Vibe Newsletter
Committee Reports:
Plant Sale: (Bea/Jill) Sales were down due to bad weather and the economy. There are plants to be fostered and there are lots of natives left to sell.
Education: (Stacy) Terrie secured the upstairs display case at McMillan Library for the month of January for us. Stacy will be doing a winter sowing workshop at McMillan Library and Donna will be doing a winter sowing workshop at Marshfield Library, both in January.
Socialization Committee: No update
Programs: (Terrie) Our next meeting will be at Alexander House and we will have Jill Ziehr from Wild Ones as a speaker.

Old Business:
- Strategic Planning - We went over the draft of the strategic plan to finalize it for a vote.
- Upcoming Leadership Vacancies - We are looking for 2 Director positions, one for the South and one for the North, as well as Vice President. If anyone has questions or would like more information, please contact Terrie.

New Business:
- 2027 Meeting Schedule - we discussed having fewer business meetings throughout the year. The initial thought was to have regular meetings and educational opportunities in March, April, May, June, September, and October and to have social meetings in August and November. There are now lots of opportunities for continuing education online through UW Horticulture recorded programs and through WIMGA. We discussed putting out a poll to see how much members rely on our educational programs to reach their required 10 hours of continuing education each year.
- New dues form - the dues form this year has been revamped. Please make sure to fully read over and answer the questions. Dues forms and dues in the amount of $20.00 are due at our November 17th meeting or before.
- Gardening Expertise Form - We will be putting a list together of all the expertise areas of our members. That way we can know who to look for if we need advice in certain areas. Please complete the form and return to Stacy.

Adjournment: M/S/P to adjourn at 7:55 PM.
Next Meeting: November 17th at Alexander House in Port Edwards at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Musch, Secretary

November Meeting Information



Our year is coming
to a close.
Join the
Festivities!

Zoom is not offered for this meeting

When: Tuesday, November 17, 6-9pm

Where: Alexander House
1131 Wisconsin River Drive
Port Edwards

What: Program: " Wild Ones Central Wisconsin: Our Partners in Education, Advocacy & Action "
by Jill Ziehr, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and WOCW Board member

✱Short, but important Business Meeting

Election of Officers

✱And finally...

...a little celebration of our accomplishments. Come for a little fun, relaxation, and refreshment to cap off the year.

Bring your favorite sweet or savory treat to share.

Hope to see you there!

Directions (for Marshfield Drivers) Take Grand Avenue (73) into Wisconsin Rapids. Turn right onto Riverview Expressway, just over the railroad tracks. In about a mile, turn right at the light onto 2nd Ave (Wi 54-73),just before the bridge over the Wisconsin River. Proceed about 1/4 mile to the roundabout; take the 3rd exit onto WI 73 which is also Wisconsin River Drive. Proceed about 2 miles to Alexander House on the right. Parking is on Jackson Avenue.

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 re-sources 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 trav-el 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 November session is on Nov. 11 at 1:30 pm.

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

Confessions of a Black Thumb: Plants That I Have Killed (or at Least Seriously Maimed)
Nov. 18 6:30-8:30pm Learn about the favorite plants of Brian Hudelson (aka Dr. Death) and his epic failures in attempting to grow these plants in his home garden, either through his encouragement of plant diseases, his insistence on practicing “Darwinian gardening” or through his sheer gardening stupidity. Use these cautionary tales to improve your own gardening skills.

Melinda Myers Webinars

No webinars posted for November to the end of the year. Watch past programs on Webinars on De-mand. Go to Melinda Myers website and scroll down the right-hand column to the orange button “Watch On-Demand Webinars”.

Marshfield Public Library Garden Guru Program No programs scheduled until January. January program will be on winter sowing. Contact the library for further information if there are no more newsletters this year.

How to deal with these little stinkers getting into your home: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Posted on October 1, 2026



Watch out for the pesky **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)** that sneaks into the homes at this time of the year. In the last few years, BMSB has spread to more than 50 counties in Wisconsin, with populations highest in the southern and eastern portions of the state. BMSB is native to Asia and was first detected in Wisconsin in 2010.

Like other fall-invading **lady beetles** and **boxelder bugs**, BMSB spend their winter indoors and leave in spring. But BMSB can become more than just a nuisance. Under high populations, these bugs can release a stinking odor and can make indoor settings inhospitable. They can also cause allergic reactions to sensitive individuals. The bug's frass (feces) can stain walls and curtains. If these bugs are squeezed or vacuumed, they emit a stinking vapor that makes it challenging to handle this bug.

What does a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Look Like?

The appearance of BMSB is very similar to native stink bug with a shield-shaped body (1/2 to 5/8" long) with a blotchy brown to grayish color. But BMSB has a few key differentiating characteristics: 1) alternating white to brown spots on the outer edge of the abdomen beneath the wings, 2) alternating bands of light and dark brown color near the tips of the antennae, and 3) dark red eyes.

Besides being an indoor nuisance bug, BMSB can affect a wide range of outdoor landscape and garden plants, so be on the lookout. Common entry points for BMSB into our homes include the cracks and crevices of walls, doors, windowsills, attics, and basement floors.

How to deal with Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs

1. Check entry doors for any gaps and prevent the entry of the bugs by using door sweeps at the base.
2. Plug the utility openings that enter from outdoors and fix any damaged or large holes in door screens.
3. Sweep the bugs into a bucket filled with soapy water, causing them to drown.
4. Use of insecticides inside the house is not recommended. Exterior application of insecticides provides temporary relief and should be applied prior to swarming of the bugs.
5. Vacuum cleaners can be used to remove the BMSB, but they need to be emptied and tossed outside immediately. Be aware that the vacuum cleaner may retain the stinking odor for a period.



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halymorpha halys*, is an exotic, invasive insect native to parts of east Asia. BMSB adults are good hitchhikers, which contributes to their spread. By 2025, BMSB had been found in most states in the contiguous United States.

Read more about BMSB »

Author: Vijai Pandian, Horticulture Educator for Extension Racine and Kenosha Counties
Revised: 9/30/2024

Winter Leaf Coverage on Lawns



Fallen leaves accumulated on lawns is a fact of fall. Typically, care is taken to rake them up before snow covers the landscape. Some leaves are composted, either right in the backyard or hauled away to community sites. Leaves may also be used as mulch on gardens and landscape beds. But what if leaves remain on lawns all winter – will there be damage next spring as a result?

Among lawn winter damage concerns is development of snow mold disease. During the wet, wintry weather of early spring, snow mold may be highly visible as matted, crusty looking areas. As conditions dry out, snow mold gradually disappears, but infected areas often remain in the form of weak or even dead turf. Avoiding excess nitrogen fertilizer in fall and removing excessive debris, such as leaves or straw, are commonly suggested to help reduce damage.

Accumulated leaves sitting on lawns all winter also can potentially smother grass. Shredding scattered leaves on lawns while mowing does not create problems, as the leaf material readily decomposes into beneficial organic matter. However, typically more than “scattered” leaves are on lawns by late fall. These situations beg the question, “How many leaves are too many to have on the lawn over winter?”

An interesting evaluation study to help answer this question was recently conducted at the **University of Wisconsin-Madison OJ Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility**. The three-year study evaluated different tree leaf mulching techniques and leaf depths for their effect on snow mold development and winter survival in a home lawn scenario. The study looked at leaf layers of two and four-inch depth, with both mulched (shredded leaves) and unmulched (whole leaves), sitting on lawns all winter. Plots with grass clear of leaves all winter were included in the study. As we all know, every Wisconsin winter is different in temperature and snowfall extremes, thus three consecutive years provided a suitable time frame this study.

Each spring, winter damage, turf (grass) quality, and turf color were evaluated after removing the leaf cover. Although results of the study have not gone through a final analysis yet, preliminary data makes it safe to say a two-inch cover of mulched (shredded) leaves is reasonable to allow on lawns over the winter. However, accumulated leaves of a four-inch depth are highly likely to lead to winter damage issues on the lawn.

Ideally mulch or shred leaves rather than have whole leaves sitting on lawns. Leaves may be shredded with various leaf blower attachments, or just by running over them with the lawn mower. Allow a maximum depth of two inches to remain on the lawn.

From the Wisconsin Yard and Gerden Weekly by:

***Bruce Spangenberg** is a Horticulture Outreach Specialist with UW-Madison Division of Extension. Get answers to your lawn, landscape and garden questions anytime at “**Ask Your Gardening Question**.”*

Minimizing Winter Damage from Wildlife



Trees and shrubs face several potential problems over the long Wisconsin winter, including feeding damage from various animals. Deer, rabbits, and voles are common culprits. Take steps now to help protect plants and keep feeding damage to a minimum this coming winter.

Protecting plantings from deer is considered the most difficult, as they can reach extended heights compared to other animals. Twigs of many trees and shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen, can be appealing to deer, even if a species is considered deer-resistant. Rabbits also will eat twigs, in addition to gnawing on bark. Winter severity and other food sources available in the vicinity influence how much potential feeding may occur on a particular planting, so what was damaged last year may be ignored this winter, or vice versa.

Fencing plants to create barriers is the most dependable method of preventing deer as well as rabbit damage. Six feet is usually the suggested height to protect trees from deer in most landscape scenarios, although higher fences may be needed in open areas like orchards or nurseries. Individual smaller shrubs may be protected from deer by making narrow cylinders with lower height fencing. Deer fencing usually has large openings in the spacing of wire so may not work to keep out rabbits. For this reason, poultry wire works best for rabbits and needs to be high enough so they cannot access plants when standing on snow.

Repellents are available to protect plants from deer and rabbits. Keep in mind the basic premise of repellents is to reduce, but not eliminate, feeding damage. Contact repellents, which are applied directly to the plant, are suggested for winter. Results will vary from location to location and as mentioned above, with the severity of winter and all available food sources in the area. Read and follow all label directions when using repellents on plants. Most products will need to be reapplied if they are to provide protection all winter.

Smallest of the three winter feeders on plants, but not the least significant, are voles, or field mice. Typical damage is gnawing tender bark near the base of trees and shrubs. Protect tender bark of younger trees with a cylinder of hardware cloth, pushed slightly into the soil to prevent voles from crawling underneath. Remove excess plant debris from the base of trees and shrubs, especially evergreen shrubs, to help reduce desirable winter vole habitat in those areas.

In addition, voles often make winding trails in lawns under the snow that become very visible in spring. Mow until growth is complete this fall to help reduce vole damage to lawn areas.

From the Wisconsin Yard and Gerden Weekly by:

***Bruce Spangenberg** is a Horticulture Outreach Specialist with UW-Madison Division of Extension. Get answers to your lawn, landscape and garden questions anytime at "**Ask Your Gardening Question**."*

C.E.E.D. Tours the Master Gardener's Fairgrounds Gardens

On October 2nd the Conservation Education & Economics Development (C.E.E.D.) Wood County committee toured the fairgrounds including the Marshfield Fairgrounds Educational Gardens. This is an annual event where this committee tours different areas in the county.

The brief focused on the creation of the gardens and gazebo and the benefits they provide.

The gardens and gazebo were constructed in 2001-2002. The idea was brought forward by the fair board, so they collaborated with the Wood County Master Gardeners, the city of Marshfield, and their residents.

The garden is intended to educate the public about the many unique designs a garden may have - by the plants selected and where they are planted in relationships with other plants.

Benefits

- The green gardens and their colors and stand out like an oasis in a barren area.
- These gardens have been in the Marshfield Area Respite Care Garden Walk at least twice. Most recently, in 2022, the 20th year of these gardens.
- During the Marshfield Area Kennel Club's annual AKC show, the gardens are a backdrop for numerous dog photos.
- This is a place of solitude, a connection with nature, weddings, learning, and Monarch butterfly releases.
- Volunteers and visitors have learned "how to's" that they can apply in their own garden beds.
- A backyard remodel resulted in rocks finding a new home with the purpose of distinguishing one garden bed from another.
- Dry plants support the Wood County Master Gardener's Fall plant sale, which is a draw for Visit Marshfield's Maple Fall Fest.
- Finally, the gardens give the master gardeners who work here a chance to do something we love with other like-minded people.

Joyce Fischer Retired Master Gardener co-designed the gardens and continues working on-site while mentoring Master Gardeners and the public.

Jill Becker--Master Gardener – Has worked on site since 2018.

WIMGA CORNER

On November 4, retired University of Minnesota professor, Mary Meyer, will speak on What's New with Ornamental Grasses via Zoom beginning at 6:30 PM. Her specialty throughout her career was growing grasses in the Midwest, a topic she has written about extensively. Be on the lookout for the WIMGA email for the Zoom connection.

If you've started marking up your calendar for 2027, you can make note of the WIMGA annual meeting to be held January 11, 2017 via Zoom. The featured continuing education topic of the evening will be "Continual Color Without Continuous Hassle".

The BUZZ on Seeds and Winter Sowing Equipment.



Seeds Growing plants from seed reduces the number we need to buy. Now is a good time to collect annual and perennial seeds for winter sowing for your own garden or plant sales. You can also sell seeds at our sales or exchange them with other growers.

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.

Adapted from Ann's article "Don't Stop Now" in the October 2023 WCMG newsletter: Place **each type** of collected seed in a separate 8½ × 11-inch paper envelope and label it immediately—do not rely on memory. Bring the seeds indoors to finish drying, removing any chaff and debris. Once dry, place the envelopes in an open, breathable bag with handles. Hang the bag in an unheated garage where it will remain cool, dark, and dry throughout the winter. This cold period will stratify seeds that require it for spring planting. Protect the seeds from mice and other pests.

Winter-Sowing Supplies

- Clear or translucent containers
- Cutting tool
- Potting soil
- Seeds
- Water
- Plant tags
- No. 2 pencil or China marker
- Duct tape

Available jugs

Jill has four garbage bags of empty one-gallon distilled-water jugs available. Ask friends who use CPAP machines to save their distilled-water jug; unlike milk or juice containers, they do not need to be cleaned.

Choosing containers One-gallon jugs with built-in handles work especially well. You can also use clear or translucent half gallon or gallon beverage jugs, 2-liter clear plastic bottles, and deep clear clamshell containers from fruit or takeout meals. Do not use green plastic bottles.

Soil Purchase potting soil before winter. Potting soil can be difficult to find in January and may be frozen at the store. If you keep it in a garage or shed, bring it indoors early enough to thaw before planting. Store it indoors if space allows.

Plant Tags Strips cut from plastic blinds make durable plant tags. Label them with a No. 2 pencil and place them beneath the jug handle for protection from the weather. Or use a china marker and write on top and bottom of the jug. "Permanent" marker will fade in the sun.

----Jill

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 17

President: Terrie Brown

VP: Open for nomination

Secretary: Stacy Musch

Treasurer Famia Marx

N Director: Open for nomination

S Director: Open for nomination

Please consider filling one of these positions. It is not a difficult task and you will be given help from other members who have done these tasks before. Ask the present person serving in the office for more information.

Membership Renewal & Dues Survey

Membership renewal forms for 2027 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 17 or at the November meeting.

Dues have increased to $20 to accommodate an increase in WIMGA dues. Our association's dues remain at $10. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and consider projects or committees you can contribute to in the new year. We look forward to your feedback and ideas.

Calendar of Events*

Nov. 4 WIMGA Program*

Nov. 17 Membership Meeting at Alexander House*

Jan 17 WIMGA Annual Meeting

Important Note for Future Newsletter Articles

Please note that due to the cancellation of the program we used to use for the newsletter formatting, all future submissions to the newsletter should be in Word format. If this is a problem for you, please contact the editor to resolve the issue. Also, some parts of the newsletter may look different in the future because the program used to format the newsletter has changed. The editor is trying to keep the newsletter looking familiar but sometimes the current program will not do what the previous program did.

November Garden Guide

Taken from Portage Couty Master Gardener Website



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- 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.

2026 WCMGV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Terrie Brown 715-459-4248

Vice President—Chris Grimes 715-424-2878

Secretary—Stacy Musch 715-204-6502

Treasurer—Famia Marx 715-652-2405

Director—Karen Shirek 715-459-7783

Director—Lori Kilinski 612-743-2110

Director-Bea Kohl 715-423-8908

Director-Carolyn Shulein 715-389-9027

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Newsletter Editor—Donna Streiff 715-207-6218

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

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

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/woodcomastergardener