

# WIMGA



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
*Serving its members since 1992*

## WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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**WIMGA Vision** - The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association will be the collective voice for the local Master Gardener Associations and individual members in active support for their horticultural projects and services; build networks to enhance outreach, share ideas and promote projects; and help extend UW-Extension's educational role to the public.

### WIMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A series of **Leadership Conferences** are being planned around the state in this year in place of a 2019 Annual Conference. **Washington County** will be hosting the 2020 Annual Conference. More information to come on location and dates. The WIMGA Board is looking for a host for the 2021 Conference. Information on hosting a conference can be found under the Members Only tab on the WIMGA website (wimga.org).

#### Reminder: WIMGA Website Password Update:

With the new year and new membership, the **WIMGA website** password was updated as of March 8, 2019. The new password is:

**wimga19**



#### Future WIMGA meeting dates

- Thursday, June 6, 4:30 – 6 pm Board meeting by teleconference
- Thursday, August 22, 4:30 – 6 pm Board meeting by teleconference
- Saturday, October 26, Fall face-to-face/Annual meeting, Stevens Point
- Thursday, December 5, 4:30 – 6 pm Board meeting by teleconference

Questions or information to be discussed at WIMGA Board meetings may be sent to our President, Becky Gutzman at [buckhill@centurylink.net](mailto:buckhill@centurylink.net).

## Highlighting our members and our associations – Community Outreach Projects

### Why Is This Plant Called Harry Lauder's Walking Stick?

Nancy Jahnel, Racine Kenosha MGV

I just had to include a picture of one of my very favorite Scottish plants . . . Harry Lauder's Walking Stick. This one at the Graham Public Library is just a marvelous specimen.

If you decide to have this unique, whimsical shrub growing in your yard, you can see from this picture just how special of a landscape feature it can be. It is a deciduous shrub that grows 8-10 feet tall and about 8 feet wide, and its dominant feature is those twisting branches.



These twisted branches catch your eye year-round. Even in winter it is an interesting eye-catching garden element. Its botanical name is *Corylus avallena* 'Contorta' and is a filbert or hazelnut tree started out as an unusually weird twisted branch that someone noticed growing out of a hedge in England. Filberts make excellent hedges and will also provide delicious nuts. Not all "Walking Stick" shrubs will yield nuts.

The common name of this plant is an interesting story, since almost no one seems to recall the person for whose walking stick this plant is named. Sir Harry Lauder was an internationally

famous entertainer in the early 1900's. Many people described him as a "song and dance man", but his true fame came from singing Scottish ballads on stages throughout Great Britain. Sir Winston Churchill referred to him as "Scotland's greatest ever ambassador."



The walking stick name for this unusual shrub comes from one of Harry Lauder's most recognized outfits on the stage. Always appearing in public in traditional Scottish dress, he also carried a very distinctive walking stick. It was bent, twisted and contorted from the handle down to the tip. So, when it came time to name this twisted selection of filbert, the walking stick of this great entertainer came to mind.

### WIMGA At LARGE ELECTION RESULTS

**Diane Thieme**, S.E.W. MG, is our new At Large Director for WIMGA. It was a very close election and that is a great testimony to the qualifications

of both candidates! She will start her duties at the April WIMGA meeting. Diane completed the Milwaukee Master Gardener training program in 2010 and has accumulated over 3,000 volunteer hours to date. She has served as President of Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteers since 2013.

## Raising Monarchs: Notes from Beaver Creek Reserve

Donna Davis, SCVMGA

Only 2% of Monarch eggs will make it to butterflies in the wild due to predators; you can help.

It takes one month for a Monarch to develop from an egg to a butterfly. The egg will hatch in 3-5 days into a tiny caterpillar. They have 5 stages of growing and shedding their skins. It takes five minutes for the caterpillar to make its chrysalis and then it will emerge in about 10 days, usually in the morning. They need some time to pump blood into their wings and then can be released in a wind sheltered place near nectar plants. Use an ice cream bucket with the center of the lid cut out and a one-foot square of vinyl/plastic window screen (NOT metal screening).

Clean the bucket daily to remove the frass (poop) with a 10% bleach solution and then wipe dry. Keep the bucket dry; the caterpillars do not need any water. They do need fresh common milkweed leaves each day. When the caterpillars are larger, cut milkweed stems with 2-3 leaves for daily feeding. The caterpillar will attach itself to the screening to make a chrysalis. You do not need to clean the bucket or add fresh leaves once the caterpillar is in the chrysalis stage.

To collect eggs (June-August), take the whole leaf from a plant and put another leaf over the egg side and place in a baggie until it is transferred into a bucket (think egg sandwich). You can raise four butterflies in each bucket. Do not touch the eggs or tiny caterpillars because they are very fragile. You can choose to just finish raising a caterpillar for a shorter and easier method.



Do not use pesticides near native flowers and flower gardens. Butterflies need nectar from native wildflowers like milkweed or Joe Pye weed. They also like single petaled tall zinnia.

For more information go to: [monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org). To watch their migration visit: [journeynorth.org](http://journeynorth.org) or [learner.org](http://learner.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS – See the WIMGA website for links to details

#### **Winnebago County Master Gardeners Philadelphia Garden Trip – May 5th, 2019**

The public is invited to join the Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteers on a spring trip, when we fly to Pennsylvania to take in the Great Gardens of Philadelphia, Sunday, May 5, 2019 through Friday, May 10, 2019.

#### **American Hosta Society National Convention – June 12-15, 2019**

Radisson Hotel & Convention Center, Green Bay, WI

#### **2019 MGVI International Conference**

**Penn's Woods: Digging into our Roots - <http://www.internationalmastergardener.com>  
June 17-22, 2019 – Valley Forge Casino Resort, Valley Forge, PA**

### **Outagamie County Master Gardener Association Garden Walk – June 22, 2019**

This walk features several different gardens and raises funds for chosen community programs. Several MGV's will be available to provide information and assistance.

### **Waupaca County Master Gardener Annual Garden Walk and Art Stroll – June 22, 2019**

This year's event will be in the Waupaca Area allowing you to walk through several unique gardens and also to visit with several artists from Central Wisconsin. Cost \$10. View our FB page in May or June for locations.

### **Door County Master Gardeners Association – July 13, 2019**

Open House at **The Garden Door**, UW Peninsular Research Station, Highway 42, north of Sturgeon Bay. This event features garden demonstrations and wonderful views of The Garden Door at its peak. For more information regarding times and programming at the event, go to [www.dcmga.org/events](http://www.dcmga.org/events)



### **Meet Me in the Garden – July 16, 2019**

Join us in the garden for a program on “Re-use, Recycle, Re-imagine”. We will explore reusing plants in containers and the landscape, green techniques in compost, mulch and crops. Spooner Agricultural Research Station, Teaching & Display Garden, 6 to 7:30 pm

### **Observation and Discovery in Nature Workshop – July 26 & 27, 2019**

UWM Field Station, 3095 Blue Goose Road, Saukville, UWM-Waukesha professors Barbara Reinhart, retired from the Art Department and Suzanne Joneson, currently teaching Botany and Microbiology courses, combine their talents to lead participants in this new course, “Observation and Discovery in Nature”. This course will introduce students to the shared interface of observation in science and art using the natural setting of the UWM Field Station. Unlike a biological illustration course that focuses on the product of translating views into realistic images, this course instead emphasizes how careful observation, visual recording via drawing, and scientific understanding can illuminate each other. With a basic introduction to drawing and science, these observations will be recorded in a field notebook. Class time will be divided between expeditions exploring the natural habitats of the field station, and sessions of focused observations, drawing, and descriptions. Students will leave this course with basic skill sets in drawing and observation of the natural world. No prior experience in drawing and all levels of expertise are encouraged to enroll. For more details and to register, visit the website, [uwm.edu/field-station/workshops](http://uwm.edu/field-station/workshops)

### **Twilight Garden Tour – August 13**

Spooner Ag Research Station, Teaching & Display Garden, 780 Orchard Lane, Spooner, 4 pm-Twilight. Features guest speakers, demonstrations, displays, vegetable tasting.



## 'WHEN IT'S SPRINGTIME IN ALASKA, IT'S 40 BELOW'

Those words from an old country song could be said about most of our state these past few days (just a few days after TAX DAY DEADLINE). We were 'lucky' enough to have 8 inches of



very wet, heavy snow fall in Southeastern Wisconsin. Covered everything up with just a few daffs and tulips poking their heads out of the snow. Skip forward 3 days; we have big puddles of melting snow running off our high spots and creating some temporary bog areas. Since it is cold snow melt water, robins chose not to use it for a quick bath.

Here at Graham Public Library in Union Grove, Sharon Souldice leads the project of clean-up and care for the library. The intrepid, hardy master gardeners who care for the library met on Tuesday

afternoon to begin our spring ritual: the great cleanup and planting of pansies. The patrons and library workers welcome us with smiles and encouragement as another public area is designed and cared for by Wisconsin Master Gardeners.

**Send us your stories and pictures** of Master Gardener Volunteer projects that promote beautification of public areas. The number of hours spent in helping communities with their place-making identification is significant and a vital part of the Master Gardener vision.

WIMGA is looking for qualified volunteers to help with the Newsletter. Time spent writing and editing will count toward your volunteer hours. Skill at editing, writing, publishing, photography or an interest in social media would be welcome. Please contact Nancy or Hali for more information.

WIMGA news and announcements are disseminated through the bi-monthly newsletter as well as all available media sources, as in emails, postings on the website, through local extension offices and on social media sites. **Articles and ideas for the Newsletter may be submitted to our editors, Nancy Jahnel-Barnes at [westcoasternancy@gmail.com](mailto:westcoasternancy@gmail.com) or Hali Dessecker at [haliirenee@yahoo.com](mailto:haliirenee@yahoo.com).**



## A GARDEN SURPRISE:

### Overwintered Carrots

We had a beautiful spring day and my 'gardening dna' just would not let me stay inside in spite of having some pretty serious back surgery just 8 weeks ago. I can sit down and pull out a few weeds I told myself. So out I go and start pulling. *Hummm*, that looks like carrot tops, . . .yep, carrot tops. So, I pull one up and I am looking at a nice fat healthy carrot. Note: this seed packet was given to me as I don't think I would ever spend money buying a short stubby carrot variety.



These seeds were planted last June in my southeastern Wisconsin garden. As I harvested them last year, I was disappointed to see that many of them stayed about an inch long and just stopped growing. Well, these were free seeds.

Here I am, in late March, after a very cold, snowy winter, and I am harvesting carrots. I pulled them up and you can see from the photo I got a lot more that I had expected. Brought them in, took a picture and then gave them a good scrub. Now comes the big test: What will these little stubby suckers TASTE like? I took a small bite. I must admit that I love carrots! I was pleasantly surprised as they tasted just fine! I have never tried to over-winter any crops so this was a first for me. I have kept

cole crops growing into December by using heavy mulch and plastic covers.

Nancy Jahnel  
Racine-Kenosha Master Gardener

**Have you found a 'garden surprise' this spring? Or tried something new and were disappointed? We would love to hear your stories. Send your thoughts, musings and pictures to the newsletter staff:**

[westcoasternancy@gmail.com](mailto:westcoasternancy@gmail.com) or [halirenee@yahoo.com](mailto:halirenee@yahoo.com)

## PLANT SALES

### Grant County – May 11

The sale is located at the Lancaster Fairgrounds in the Crops and Soil Building, 916 E. Elm St., Lancaster. The sale begins at 8:00 AM and ends at 11:00 AM. All plants are for zone four grown by our MGVs. See pictures of past plant sales on our Facebook page and [grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com](http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com)

### Door County – May 17 & 18

UW Peninsular Agricultural Research Station, Highway 42, north of Sturgeon Bay. This annual Master Gardener event offers new and unusual plants, as well as old-time favorites. Perennials, annuals, herbs and vegetable plants are available Saturday, May 18 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. For more information, go to [www.dcmga.org/events](http://www.dcmga.org/events).

### Barron County – May 18

Plant sale is at the Fairgrounds in Rice Lake with a start time of 8:00 am. MGV's will be on hand to answer questions and help with plant selections.

### **Fond du Lac – May 18**

Plant Sale (annuals, perennials, herbs, houseplants), Vendors, Horticultural and Gardening Exhibits, Education. 9am-3pm, Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds, Cow Palace Building, 520 Fond du Lac Ave, Fond du Lac

### **North Central WI – May 18**

There will be thousands of locally grown plants including perennials, annuals, hostas, vegetables, tomatoes, Wisconsin natives, herbs and seedlings at low prices. We also have a free Children's Garden where children can learn how to pot a plant to take home with them. Our Reference table will answer your gardening questions and Marathon County Solid Waste Department will be there selling compost bins and stainless kitchen pails.

### **North Country – May 18**

Features Heirloom tomatoes, peppers, natives, herbs, and cannas, 8am-11am (or until plants gone), Spooner Agricultural Research Station Building, 1035 E Maple Street (Highway 70), Spooner <https://www.northcountrymgv.org/plant-sale.html>

### **Outagamie County – May 18**

Sale offers a wide variety of new types of perennial and annual flowers, shade plants, vegetable plants, grasses and garden compost all at reasonable prices. Plant diagnostic clinic throughout the day-get answers to general plant questions and about care, insect or disease problems. Master Gardeners will be available throughout the sale to answer gardening questions and help shoppers select plants. Location: UW-Ext. Office grounds at 3365 West Brewster St., Appleton, 8am-2pm

### **Portage County – May 18**

Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers will be holding their annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18th, 2019 from 8-11 am at the Rettler Corporation parking lot (3317 Business Park Drive) in Stevens Point. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer any questions and to help you choose the correct plants for your yard. Perennials and vegetables from our own gardens, as well as select perennials from a local grower, will be available for purchase.

### **Ozaukee – May 25**

Concordia University Field House, 12800 Lake Shore Dr., Mequon, 9 am-noon  
Shop one of the biggest plant sales in the area: **more than 12,000 plants!** An extensive collection of hard-to-find plants and herbs—including more than 30 kinds of basil—sold alongside tried-and-true favorites and heirloom tomatoes and vegetables grown by master gardeners. For more information, go to [www.ozaukeemastergardeners.org](http://www.ozaukeemastergardeners.org)

### **Waupaca County – June 2**

UWEX Waupaca County Master Gardener Annual Spring Plant Sale will offer a variety of annuals, perennials and garden art. Educational displays and Master Gardeners will be available the day of the event. Please come with your questions! 8 am-2 pm in the Education Bldg., Waupaca County Fairgrounds, 602 South St., Weyauwega.



## 2019 WIMGA Development Meetings

A series of training conferences are being planned in various locations around the state in place of the 2019 Annual Conference. These events will include seminars on presentation skills, social media use and leadership techniques. Dates for the September leadership development “**Super Stars**” trainings:

**Thursday September 12:** Extension – Marathon County, 212 River Drive, Suite 3, Wausau

**Saturday, September 14:** UW-Madison campus, exact site to be published later

**Friday, September 20:** Extension – Eau Claire County, 227 1st Street West, Altoona

**ANNUAL STATE MEETING** is being planned for Saturday, October 26 at the Dreyfuss Center in Stevens Point. This one-day meeting will include the WIMGA Annual Meeting (open to all WIMGA members) and a guest speaker to be announced. Set your calendars.

May 2019 Newsletter



University of Wisconsin - Extension

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**The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association Newsletter** is published 6 times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November) dedicated to providing horticulture education and information about the Master Gardener program to state association members.

Articles, artwork and ideas are welcome, but final selection and editing are the responsibility of the editorial staff.

**Visit the WIMGA Website at**  
<http://www.wimga.org/>

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