

WIMGA



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Serving its members since 1992

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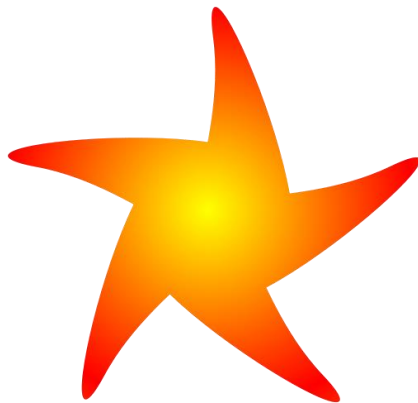
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WIMGA Vision - The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association will be the collective voice for the local Master Gardener Associations and individual members in active support for their horticultural projects and services; build networks to enhance outreach,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

Super Star Training Registration Deadline Extended

A series of **Leadership Conferences – SUPERSTAR TRAINING** are being planned around the state this year in place of a 2019 Annual Conference. WIMGA is offering **three** opportunities for you to meet other MGVs and pick up some continuing education.



Super Star training is for YOU, one of WIMGA's super volunteers, doing outstanding work delivering WIMGA's mission by bringing horticultural information to our communities. The training will be a one-day workshop from 10 am – 3 pm, and will be offered in three locations around the state. You are invited to choose a location that is most convenient for you. **Registration deadline has been extended to Thursday, September 5.**

The organizing committee, Marilyn Gorham, Rosalie O'Connell, Janet Mangold, Nancy Jahnel, Mike Maddox and Becky Gutzman have put together a selection of topics that will strengthen your skills as horticultural educators. A fee of \$15 includes morning refreshments and lunch. We look forward to seeing you at one of these sessions!

Super Star Training Registration

Dates and locations include:

- **Thursday, September 12 – Marathon County Extension Office**
212 River Drive, Suite 3, Wausau
- **Saturday, September 14 – UW-Madison Horticulture Building**
1575 Linden Drive, Madison
- **Friday September 20 – Eau Claire County Extension Office**
227 1st Street West, Altoona

Please register by **September 5**, using this form in this form or similar format.
Please include a check for \$15 payable to WIMGA.

Name:

Email:

Address:

Telephone:

Check which session you will attend:

_____ September 12, Wausau

_____ September 14, Madison

_____ September 20, Altoona

Mail \$15 check made out to WIMGA and registration to Rosalie O'Connell:
W4315 Gills Coulee Road, West Salem, WI 54669

Schedule for the day:

- ☆ 9:30 am - Networking and Morning Snacks
- ☆ 10:00 am - Growing Our Social Media Network
- ☆ Noon Lunch and Socializing
- ☆ 1:00 pm - Becoming a Rock Star Educator
- ☆ 3:00 pm - Wrap up and on the road

MEET YOUR WIMGA VICE PRESIDENT

Jackie Shaffer has been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2006. She has served as the chair or co-chair of the Waushara County Association over the years including at the present.

After getting her Masters' Degree at age 22, Jackie became a psychotherapist at a mental health center treating adults, children, couples, families, and criminal offenders with a broad spectrum of problems. She also became the director of the crisis intervention and child treatment programs and her specialty developed to treat sexual assault victims, parents, families and offenders. Jackie developed and presented a number of detailed workshops for professionals on understanding and dealing with sexual assault.

After doing this for years, Jackie made a switch to a probation and parole agent, supervising criminals convicted of a wide range of crimes and conducting presentence investigations. Because of her training and experience, she was assigned the majority of sex offenders and murderers and became a Sex Offender Intensive Supervision Person. Upon retirement Jackie did transports of criminals and mental health commitments for the local sheriff's department for about 10 years. She has been and continues to be a bailiff for jury trials.

Jackie's involvement in WIMGA started out with being a member of the association and a substitute for our local WIMGA representative. Subsequently, she was elected as representative and within a few years, was elected as a director. Later appointed to be on the Master Gardener Advisory board and most recently elected WIMGA Vice President.

The goals Jackie is most pleased to have achieved as a Waushara County Master Gardener Association are expanding their community services particularly with public education for adults and children. Because the agricultural agent retired and the state said there wasn't money in the budget to fill the position, for the past year or so Jackie has been the local program coordinator volunteer person. She also is a member of the Marquette County Master Gardener Association since 2015 and currently serving as their local WIMGA representative.



WIMGA GRANT REPORTS

Grant County used their \$100 grant to enhance the program and projects at Katie's Garden, Platteville. The funds went toward purchase of three obelisks that are on display. Since this is our 15-year anniversary, we wanted to use the obelisks for enhancing the aesthetics for attractive displays.

Our educational gardens place emphasis on a rain garden, sensory pots, edible plants, fairy garden, and pollinators. Six master gardeners placed and maintain plants to attract pollinators, hummingbirds, and butterflies.

These gardens are the gateway to the Platteville Community Arboretum Trail; consequently, it draws a diverse group of visitors throughout the seasons because it offers something for everyone's viewing and admiration.

The impact is hard to measure when located in an area that is open to the public 24/7 but we hear positive feedback from visitors when our gardeners are working in their gardens. The site of the gardens are adjacent to the Regional Chamber Office and the obelisks have enhanced the appearance of the gardens for all visitors. During ideal weather conditions, we have 2,000 people view the gardens per week. Imagine 15 years ago this area was a dumping area overgrown with brush and now it is a showcase for the community and all are benefiting from the enhanced look in the gardens.

Thank you for your support in our efforts and the Grant County Master Gardener Association wishes to extend an invite to visit southwest Wisconsin and Katie's Garden.

Karin Peacock, Coordinator

For more information on WIMGA Grants, check out WIMGA website. Included are instructions for **requesting** a grant and a list of projects funded in the past. Many ongoing projects across our state are partially funded with a WIMGA grant.



Barron County Fair Horticulture Building

A \$250 grant in 2019 was used by the Barron County Master Gardener Association to upgrade their displays at the Barron County Fair. The Horticulture Building is set up and staffed entirely by Barron County Master Gardener Volunteers (BCMGVs). It is the site for both Youth and Open Class entries in the vegetables, plants, and flowers categories. Set up occurred on July 15 and the fair concluded on July 21. During the week 23 BCMGVs volunteered a total of 294 hours.

During the day of judging, BCMGVs take in the entries, and help the judge, sometimes until close to midnight. In 2019, more than 60 youth (4-H members) entered plants, flowers, and vegetables; and over 100 people entered items in the Open Class category. Along with the displays of entries, the Horticulture Building has a rest area set up by the Master Gardeners. This year's theme was based on one of the major projects of the BCMGVs, the Pioneer Village Museum. Old garden tools were visible, as well as a history of the gardening project. An activity for children is always part of this area.



Grand Champion winners are awarded a garden center certificate, and the WIMGA grant helped with that expense this year, as well as creating attractive displays.



Throughout the entire fair, a BCMGV is always staffing the building, answering questions and talking about garden issues with visitors. This year, there were more than 2500 visitors to the building. It is the one event in Barron County where the Master Gardeners are the most visible to the greatest number of people.

Do You Have a Story to Share?

Articles and ideas for the Newsletter may be submitted to our editors, Nancy Janel-Barnes at westcoasternancy@gmail.com or Hali Dessecker at halirenee@yahoo.com.

We would love to hear more about WIMGA projects, horticulture articles or Grant ideas. **Send us your stories and pictures.** Some things to note: the number of volunteers and hours spent, contribution to the community whether in education or with place-making and collaboration with UW-Extension.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7, 2019:

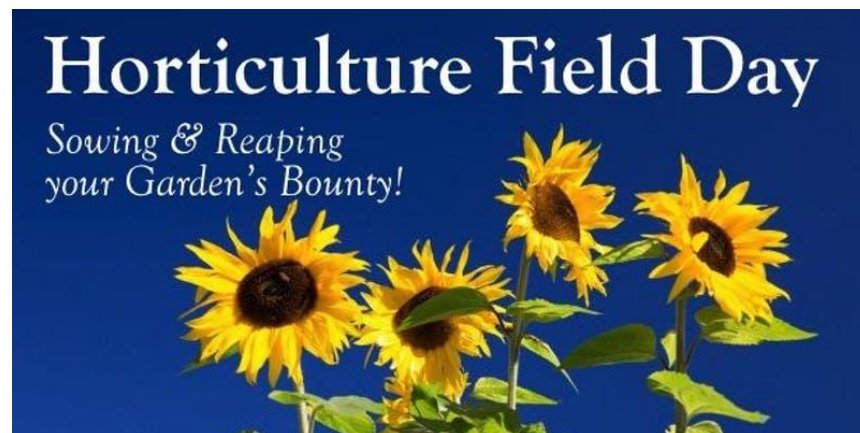
Meet Me in the Garden Education Series
Spoooner Agricultural Research Station-
Teaching and Display Garden
780 Orchard Lane, Spooner, Wisconsin
10:00 am-Noon

This month's garden program focuses on seed saving and fall rejuvenation.



Horticulture Field Days

Nissan Park, Reedsburg Area Community Arena
1411 Viking Drive, Reedsburg Wisconsin
Registration 8:30 am, Events from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm



The Sauk County Master Gardeners Association will be hosting their Horticulture Field Day, which includes five 45-minute demonstration sessions, a garden marketplace, raffle, Ask a Master Gardener booth and more.

Link to the SCMGA event page or contact Lisa Wedekind - saukctymg@gmail.com :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/horticulture-field-day-tickets-5371741022?fbclid=IwAR1GPlcnc4ycuMAh9L0gXBNAkZ3qvlfD9I7pdeFZiakCe2MGiA-H9gPph3o>

Is That A Yam or A Sweet Potato?

The sweet potato is one of only a few cultivated vegetable crops that originated in the Americas. The wild sweet potato has been traced back to Peru as early as 8000 B.C and people have been eating sweet potatoes for over 10,000 years! A favorite of herbivore (plant-eating) dinosaurs, sweet potatoes have been around since prehistoric times.

Sweet potatoes and white or red potatoes are not related at all. Sweet potatoes belong to the Morning Glory family and require warm growing conditions. Sweet potatoes are roots that store nutrients over times when the plant cannot grow. Potatoes are tubers or the underground part of the stem and are planted to grow the next growing season. Both sweet potatoes and regular potatoes are vegetables that grow underground.

People often call “yams” sweet potatoes and “sweet potatoes” yams but they are not the same thing. Yams are a tuber with rough skin lower in nutrients while sweet potatoes are a root with smooth skin and higher in nutrients. Native Americans called sweet potatoes, batatas. When Christopher Columbus landed on America’s shores in 1492, the Native Americans were growing sweet potatoes. Columbus and his men loved the tasty sweet potatoes so much that they brought them back to Europe to grow their own. George Washington,



our first American President, was a sweet potato farmer before he became our President. A man with a similar name, George Washington Carver born 1864, studied farming and nutrition. He thought of new ways farmers could earn more money. He created 100 new uses for sweet potatoes. Some of those were; flour, ink, rubber, tapioca flour, vinegar, a glue for postage stamps, and 500 different shades of fabric dye.

True yams are usually grown in Africa and Asia– they have a pinkish white center and can grow up to 6 feet long and 100 pounds.

Growing Sweet Potatoes in Wisconsin is not typical. Sweet Potatoes usually prefer warmer climates. However, there are several farms in southern Wisconsin that are successfully growing sweet potatoes! The recommended variety is Beauregard; it produces well in our Wisconsin summer climate. Sweet Potatoes are grown from “slips” that shoot out from the main tuber after it is placed into peat moss. Try your hand at planting sweet potatoes this year!

Information from brochures created by Jennifer Blazek, Dane County UW Extension and Waupaca County Extension. Read more at: <http://harmonyvalleyfarm.blogspot.com/2009/10/sweet-potatoes-theyre-not-really.html>



NJ'S BITS AND BOBS:



This is a warning to all: I am so sad to see the death toll from drowning going up. Many of us live along Lake Michigan or other lakes throughout the state. Please be mindful of the warning signs when posted. Most of these drownings occurred where people ignored the warning signs and chose to go into the lake. The undertow cannot be seen and is deadly. Sadly, there have been several more deaths since this newspaper article was published. NJ

[Lake Michigan drownings up 80 percent from this time last year](#)

Chicago Tribune July 30th, 2019

Lake Michigan continues to be the deadliest of the Great Lakes, with the number of drownings **increasing significantly so far this year compared with last**, an advocacy group that tracks drownings says.

According to the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project, 27 people have drowned in Lake Michigan this year. That's 80% higher than this time last year, when there were 15 drownings. More people have drowned in Lake Michigan this year than the other Great Lakes combined.

Turtle Hatchlings

As I read my Wisconsin Nature Notes from The Nature Conservancy my attention moved from my flower beds, vegetable and herb gardens.



Photo courtesy of Chris Helzer, TNC

The mention of turtles hatching, compass plants blooming and nighthawks and shorebirds migrating sent my thoughts to the wonderful area we live in here in Wisconsin. We are blessed with forests, rolling hills, more lakes than Minnesota (yes!), prairies alive with wildflowers and wonderful Great Lakes areas.

“The earliest turtle hatches occur in August if the summer has been hot and dry, while later hatches occur in September if it’s been cool and wet. A hatch in August usually means a much higher percentage of females; a hatch in September means far more males. If the summer has been particularly cool and wet, the hatchlings may even remain in the nest over the winter and emerge the following spring.” TNC quote

2019 WIMGA ANNUAL MEETING

The **WIMGA Annual Meeting**, a requirement of our non-profit status, will be held this year in conjunction with the **Fall Face-to-Face Meeting of Local Representatives**. This meeting is open to all WIMGA members and is an opportunity to hear what your State Board is working on, vote on by-law changes and hear about future events.

Saturday, October 26, 2019 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
UW-Stevens Point, Dreyfus Center
1015 Reserve Street, Stevens Point

Parking is available at the Dreyfus Center, and we will have coffee and refreshments available when you arrive. Lunch will be on your own in the Dreyfus cafeteria.

Mark your calendars now; more details will be sent to Local Representatives. Confirmation on attendance will be needed as space at the Dreyfus Center is limited.

In advance of the Board Meeting suggested changes to the By-laws are to be published to the full membership in preparation for a final vote at the State Meeting. The following are the proposed changes:

Language to be deleted is indicated with “strike through”; new language is highlighted in yellow and in italics.

The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association By-laws

Be It Resolved that Article III, Membership, be amended as follows:

III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons who are members of WIMGA affiliated local associations ~~or~~ **and** qualify for the membership categories listed below may become members of the association upon receipt of their annual dues.

Section 2. Membership in the Association shall consist of the following categories:

A. Voting Members of WIMGA

- 1 **Certified Master Gardener Volunteers** – those persons certified by ~~UW-~~ Extension who are in good standing. Good standing is accomplished by completing *the Criminal Background Check (CBC), Mandated Reporter Training (MRT), and* the yearly training and service requirements by ~~UW-~~ Extension for maintenance of certification as a Master Gardener Volunteer ~~as determined by the member’s local association or county~~ **and any other requirements set by University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension (Extension).**

- 2 **Intern Master Gardener Volunteers** – those persons who have completed the UW-Extension Master Gardener Training Program, **CBC and MRT**, but have not satisfied the service requirement for certification.

B Non-voting Members of WIMGA

- 1 **Inactive Master Gardener Volunteers** – those persons who have been active Master Gardener Volunteers **and have completed the CBC and MRT**, but who have not accomplished the yearly training and service required by UW-Extension ~~as determined by the member's local association or county~~. Voting rights are suspended until UW-Extension requirements for recertification have been completed.
- 2 **Student Master Gardener Volunteers** – those persons currently taking Master Gardener training, **and have completed the CBC and MRT**, but who have not completed the training program.
 - Must work with a Certified or Intern MGV on any MG project
 - Must not represent themselves as a UW-Extension MGV or give advice representing UW-Extension until they become Intern MGVs.
- ~~3 **Associates** – those persons who join during the period when MG training is not available but plan to comply with the standards set for Certified Master Gardener Volunteers at the next available training opportunity. An Associate member:
 - must work with a Certified or Intern MGV on any MG project
 - must not represent themselves as a UW-Extension MGV or give advice representing UW-Extension until they become Intern MGVs.~~
- ~~4 **Friends of Master Gardeners** – those persons who wish to support the association from industry, business or the community but who do not plan to take MG training.~~

Section 3. The annual dues associated with each class and category of membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Dues are payable to the Treasurer at the time of applying for membership and thereafter on January 15 of each year.

Section 4. All Local MG Associations admitted to WIMGA

- A. Each Local Association must designate a Local WIMGA Representative (by whatever method they choose, such as appointment or election) to the WIMGA by a date specified by the WIMGA Board. Local Representatives must be voting members of WIMGA. Term limits, if any, shall be determined by each local association. Local Representatives shall elect their District's WIMGA Board members (See Board of Directors, Section V), provide communication between their local MG group and the District Representatives and share any information with their group sent to them directly by the WIMGA.

B. Must use the same terms and definitions as WIMGA for Certified, Intern, Student and Inactive Master Gardener Volunteers. However, voting rights for Student and Inactive MGVs at the local level are to be determined by each local group.

~~C. May choose to have an Associate and/or Friends of Master Gardeners member categories. These are optional. Groups that have these membership categories need to use the same terms and definitions as WIMGA. However voting rights for Associates and Friends of Master Gardeners at the local level are to be determined by each local group.~~

Section 5. Master Gardener Volunteers *Who Are* Not Members of WIMGA or a Local Association:

MGVs who are not members of the WIMGA or a local association are still Certified Master Gardener Volunteers if they have completed their annual certification requirements with the UW-Extension to be in “good standing”. Good standing is accomplished by completing *the Criminal Background Check (CBC), Mandated Reporter Training (MRT), and* the yearly training and service requirements by UW-Extension for maintenance of certification as a Master Gardener Volunteer as determined by the local Extension Agent or the WIMGA Program Office *and any other requirements set by University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension (Extension).*

From Procedure Committee – Hali Dessecker, John Hahn, Laurie McGill and Jackie Shaffer

Questions or information to be discussed at WIMGA Board meetings may be sent to our President, Becky Gutzman at buckhill@centurylink.net.

WIMGA SPEAKERS BUREAU

WIMGA offers speakers on many topics that are available to your association for meetings and seminars. More information can be found on the WIMGA website.

Topics include:

- Edibles
- Garden Design
- Garden Pests & Diseases
- Perennials
- Trees & shrubs
- Natives & Pollinators

Master Gardener Volunteers and speakers with garden expertise are invited to be a part of the Speakers Bureau. All you need to do is fill in the sign-up form and attach it to the email using the website contact. If you have a website, we can link to that also.

[WIMGA Speakers Bureau sign up form](#)

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 Jahnell-Barnes at westcoasternancy@gmail.com or Hali Dessecker at halirenee@yahoo.com.

September, 2019 Newsletter

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University of Wisconsin - Extension

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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