



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Serving its members since 1992

WIMGA

WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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WIMGA Vision - The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association will be the collective voice for 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 University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Horticulture, Division of Extension Master Gardener Program's educational role to the public.

Happy New Year!

Marilyn Gorham, St Croix Valley MGV

The New Year brings a new list of “to dos” for WIMGA. The 2023 list already has several activities planned. If you attended our annual meeting, the dates and speakers for our Zoom educational sessions were announced. You can find a list of them on page 4. Mark your calendars and join us for these fun and informative sessions.

On February 7th, WIMGA will host a ZOOM meeting of Local Association Presidents. The attendees will share their best practices, member retention strategies, and key areas of success and concern for the coming year. WIMGA expects this first meeting to provide new ideas, renewed energy and a support network to the participants and hopes to continue with more sessions in 2023.

WIMGA will begin revising its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in January. The SOPs provide a framework for WIMGA’s primary roles and responsibilities. It is the key document used to educate new Board members on how specific responsibilities of WIMGA work.

During 2023, the WIMGA Board will revisit its structure, in light of the loss in numbers of members and Local Associations. Making sure that WIMGA is structured to optimize its outreach to its members is critical to its success.

Watch the newsletter and website for updates on our progress. A cold, dark January is the perfect time for our work to begin!

Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA President

January Continuing Education Event



Craig Lehoullier **Growing Epic Tomatoes in Your Garden** **January 26, 2023, 6:30 pm**

[**REGISTER**](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. This lecture will be recorded for those unable to attend.

Craig LeHoullier lives and gardens in Hendersonville, North Carolina (as of January 2020; prior to that, he and his wife and pets resided in Raleigh, NC, for 28 years). A Rhode Island native, he caught the gardening passion from his grandfather, Walter, and dad, Wilfred. Craig achieved his PhD in chemistry at Dartmouth College, which resulted in a 25-year career in pharmaceuticals that ended in 2009.

Craig's gardening obsession, which started the year he and Susan were married (and their first garden, in 1981), is passing through several stages. His love of heirloom tomatoes began

with his joining the Seed Savers Exchange, an organization for which he continues to serve as adviser for tomatoes, in 1986. He is responsible for naming and popularizing many well-known tomatoes, such as Cherokee Purple, Lillian's Yellow Heirloom and Lucky Cross.

In 2005 he added amateur tomato breeding to his garden resume, and continues to co-lead the Dwarf Tomato Breeding project, responsible for creating 145 (and counting) new compact growing varieties for space-challenged gardeners. His writing career kicked off with a 2012 request from [Storey Publishing](#) to write a book on tomatoes, resulting in *Epic Tomatoes* (2014). His second book, *Growing Vegetables in Straw Bales*, soon followed (2016). Book 3, focusing on the Dwarf Tomato Breeding Project, is in progress and should be completed during 2023 as a self-published creation.

Craig is a popular lecturer across the country at major gardening events, and via Zoom from his home office, as well as a frequent guest on podcasts and radio shows. His current and upcoming projects include a weekly Instagram Live each Friday at 3 PM Eastern from his garden throughout the growing season (typically from March to September), and additional opportunities on podcasts, webinars and speaking opportunities, as they arise. Perhaps the most exciting current venture is a collaborative on-line tomato course, *Growing Epic Tomatoes*, with world renown gardener Joe Lamp'I, as part of Joe's Organic Gardening Academy.

The second season of the course launched in late February 2022, and as of autumn, the course is now evergreen, available to purchase and experience at your convenience.

Epic Tomatoes from YOUR Garden is a fast paced, picture filled tour of Craig LeHoullier's 40-year tomato obsession. It is structured in two main segments - beginning with some history, stories, definitions and highlighting of particular tomato varieties, followed by focus on successful tomato growing, from seed to harvest, with a short space for questions in between. The whole point of this workshop is identifying key factors for ensuring success for your tomato growing efforts, including selecting varieties for your growing conditions, and providing flexibility of growing options. Be sure to bring your questions, as Craig will stay around until they are all answered.



Dan Mahr
Cacti and Succulents: Lessons from Nature
February 27, 2023, 6:30pm

[**REGISTER**](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Dr. Dan Mahr has degrees in Biology and Zoology from San Diego State University and his doctorate is in Entomology from the University of California, Riverside. For over 30 years he was a professor of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he specialized in pest management on horticultural crops.

He has a strong interest in horticulture and was on the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America for over 25 years and served as its president. He is an Honorary Fellow of that organization and was director of its Field Trips Program for 20 years, organizing and leading tours throughout the United States and Mexico, as well as Peru, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, the Canary Islands, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar. He has also traveled to England, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Costa Rica, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Canada, and Zanzibar, as well as throughout the Caribbean.

He and his wife Susan currently live in California. For over 35 years they have been interested in the history, culture, and arts of the Pueblo peoples of Arizona and New Mexico and have an extensive collection of contemporary Pueblo pottery and other arts. Dan has visited the pueblos of Hopi, Laguna, Acoma, Zuni, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Picuris, and Jemez, as well as numerous archaeological sites of the Ancestral Pueblo Peoples.

2023 Continuing Education Program for Members

January 26	Craig LeHoullier, Growing Epic Tomatoes in Your Garden
February 27	Dan Mahr, Cacti and Succulents: Lessons from Nature
March 28	Tovah Martin, In Unison: Creating Harmonious Combinations for Pollinators and You
April 18	Mark Dwyer, Exciting New Annuals
September	To be Determined
October	Restoring Native Prairie

The Continuing Education Committee has already scheduled four great speakers for this spring. After taking a break for the summer, they will work on securing speakers for the fall and winter. Dates for each seminar will vary during the week, so we don't land on the same night each time and conflict with local meetings. We always check to see if speakers are willing to have a recording of their talk on the website for a short time for members who cannot listen live (not all are willing).

The committee is striving to have a variety of topics that appeal to many members. Besides horticultural subjects, we would consider education related to the skills of being a Master Gardener Volunteer: leading groups, teaching and sharing, and working with partners. We are looking for your suggestions for new speakers or appealing topics. Please contact Becky Gutzman, buckhill@centurylink.net with your suggestions.

WIMGA Grants

We continue to feature articles on grant projects in our newsletters to highlight our members efforts to promote horticulture education in their counties. A list of grant recipients and their projects will be included in our next newsletter. Budgeted in 2023 for grants has been set at \$8,850. More information on criteria for Grant Applications can be found on our website wimga.org/grants-1.

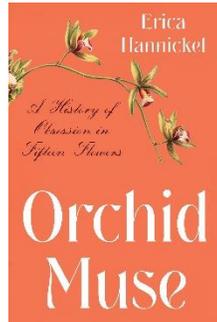


Winter Care of Indoor Orchids

Article & Photos by Erica Hannickel, Ashland/Bayfield Co MGV



Erica Hannickel, a Wisconsin master gardener since 2009, is professor of history at Northland College in Ashland. She grows about 150 orchids at home on two baker's carts and in a miniature orchid cabinet. Her most recent book, *Orchid Muse: A History of Obsession in Fifteen Flowers* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2022), offers many more orchid care tips. She gives talks on horticultural history and orchid care in person and online.



Are your moth orchids in spike or in bloom? Winter is prime blooming season for complex hybrid phalaenopsis. If your phal pal is healthy but not blooming, it may be getting too little light, or it hasn't had the temperature swings it needs to produce an inflorescence. This can be achieved by giving it at least a week of day-night temperature difference of 15 degrees F or more. Night temps in the mid-high 50s and day temps in the low 70s for a week is ideal. Spikes should initiate in a few weeks (look for a "mitten" emerging from a leaf axil), and you should have flowers a few months after that. If you want blooming orchids for the holidays next year, initiate the temperature drop in October. But if your phal has had a few months' rest since its last bloom, you might be able to trick it into spiking now.

There are several other tips I wish I knew when I began growing phalaenopsis and other



orchids. Most indoor orchids are epiphytes in nature—meaning they live on trees. Since they don't live in soil, balancing the right amount of humidity and water is the most difficult thing to master. Some of the best orchid growers I know subscribe to the adage "we grow roots, not orchids." If you have a healthy root system, you will have a healthy orchid. Four additional tips should put you on the path to successful orchid growing.



1) Keep humidity above 40%

If you keep your orchids (whether they be phalaenopsis, oncidiums, cattleyas, or most other genera) in a spot where the humidity is reliably above 40%, they will naturally fare better. When I started growing orchids, I put my phals on a shady windowsill in the bathroom—they loved the humidity and the ambient temperature spikes from the shower. I now have orchids all over my home and utilize inexpensive humidity monitors (hygrometers) with built-in temperature gauges to give me a sense of microhabitats for my plants.

2) Don't allow white mold (“snow mold”) to grow on roots or in potting media.

The mold is a sign that the media is broken down, rotting, and probably too acidic for the orchid. Soak the pot to loosen the media, toss spent media in your compost bin, cut off dead roots with sterile scissors, spray roots with hydrogen peroxide, and repot with media similar to what it previously grew in (likely sphagnum moss or bark or a mix of the two). If you repot in long-fiber sphagnum moss, the key is to repot it *very loosely*. Most orchids you buy today are crammed in pots with far too much sphagnum for the home grower's environment and water regime (remember, as epiphytes, orchids need air around their roots as much as they need moisture). If you receive a new orchid like this, take it out of the pot, loosen and remove about half of the moss, and place it back in the pot. As a general rule, all orchids should be repotted every 1-2 years.

3) Pot size should be small for the size of the orchid

Pot for the size of the healthy root ball, not for the size of the plant. Orchid roots much prefer to be crowded, rather than swimming in a pot that is too large (and too wet) for them. Of course, small pots with large leaves can lead to a top-heavy plant—I address that by placing the orchid's plastic pot inside of a heavier clay or decorative pot. (This also helps regulate humidity around the roots.) Never let an orchid sit in water, and in general phalaenopsis like to be “just dry” before watering them again.



4) Give your 'chids a shower

Like all houseplants, orchids will accumulate dust on their leaves. At least once a month, take your orchid to the sink and shower it, leaves and all, with lukewarm water. This will wash away dust, as well as suppress any mites or other tiny critters, and increase humidity around the orchid. This is a good way to regularly water your orchid as well. Please don't “add ice” to your tropical and subtropical plants—they don't receive freezing water in their natural habitats, and if you never wet all of the media, the roots will not grow to seek moisture through the whole pot. Before putting the orchid back in its place, dry any leaf joints or other crevices to prevent rot. With winter's lower temperatures and lower light conditions, watering should be reduced (remember “just dry”), and with the plant's naturally slower growth, take a few months off of fertilizing as well.

Best of luck with your orchids this winter! I hope this addresses a few of the tricky issues of growing healthy orchids in your home.

WIMGA Board Elections Member-At-Large Position

Are you interested in becoming more involved with WIMGA outside your own local association? We are looking for candidates for At-Large Directors on the State WIMGA Board. The At-Large Directors represent all MGVs in the state (not just their own association). They are expected to attend monthly Board meetings (most are by Zoom) and serve on WIMGA committees. Elections are held every year to select one Wisconsin MGV to serve a three-year term. Three of the 15 Directors are At-Large; the remaining 12 are selected from the Local Reps in each of the six Districts.



The Board is now soliciting nominations for At-Large Director. Only certified MGVs are eligible. Nominees must submit a short bio (by email) to President Marilyn Gorham, magorham87@gmail.com by January 31 to be included on the ballot that will be published in the next newsletter.

WIMGA MEMBER DUES

WIMGA dues are \$5 per person. It is the responsibility of each Local Association's Treasurer to assure dues are paid by **March 1** of each year and sent to WIMGA's Treasurer along with a list of current paid members, including email address for each member. The email address ensures members receive notifications from WIMGA including newsletters. A google spreadsheet is available for each treasurer to complete with member information. The following is the link to the WIMGA membership folder:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uESPszFT22Opbl_m-7jFqgaG4Ziv3-f9

MGVs not affiliated with a local association may send their dues directly to the WIMGA Treasurer.

Roseann Meixelsperger, WIMGA Treasurer
204 Donovan Cove Rd
Shell Lake WI 54871
Contact treasurer.wimga@gmail.com for more information

Poinsettias

How To Keep Them Alive and Other Interesting Facts

by: Donna Mae Stohlmann, St Croix Valley MGV



The original Nahuatl name for the plant we call “poinsettia” is *cuexilxochitl* (kwet-la-sho-she), cultivated by the Aztecs long before the European colonization of the Americas. The poinsettia flower is native to Central America – specifically, an area in southern Mexico called “Taxco del Alarcon” – and the plants were used by the ancient Aztecs to make a purple dye for clothing and cosmetics. It grows in moist, wet, wooded ravines and on rocky hillsides. It

was named for Joel R. Poinsett, who popularized the plant and introduced it to floriculture while he was U.S. minister to Mexico in the late 1820s.

The botanical name for Poinsettia is *Euphorbia Pulcherrima*, which literally means “the most beautiful Euphorbia. Other names include Lobster Flower, Flame Leaf Flower, Crown of the Andes and Easter flower. In Mexico, the Poinsettia is known as the Christmas Flower and called *Flor de la Noche Buena* (Flower of the Holy Night), due to its resemblance to the Star of Bethlehem, the red leaves represent the blood of Christ and white leaves represent the purity of Christ. In their native environment, poinsettias flower during the winter season. While considered by the ancient Aztecs to be symbols of purity, in today’s language of flowers, the ‘December birth flower,’ symbolize good cheer, success and bring wishes of mirth and celebration. <https://www.britannica.com>

Investors Business Daily states that chances are good at least one poinsettia in your home or office right now came from Ecke Ranch, in Encinitas, California which serves half the worldwide market and 70% of the US market. Roughly 80% of the world poinsettias originate on this 72-acre ranch. The Ecke legacy began some 100 years ago, when a German immigrant named Albert Ecke began selling poinsettias as cut flowers from his Hollywood, California farm stand. Back then, the tall, woody shrub grew to heights of 2–13 feet. They were unknown to most people outside its native Mexico. But Mr. Ecke’s son, Paul, saw the commercial potential in a vibrant red-and-green plant that looks best on days when there are fewest hours of daylight. Over the next several decades, Paul, Paul Jr. and Paul III helped turn an obscure wildflower into America’s favorite flowering potted plant, and one that has become synonymous with Christmas decor. The Ecke company was sold in 2012.

Hudson Flower Shop owner, Shelli Erck, said “We purchase poinsettias locally from the twin cities growers as we have found that poinsettias do not “travel well” in our subzero climates, so the less time on the road the better. Once we receive our plants, we hydrate them and dress them as gifts to be delivered to our clients and friends in the Hudson, Wisconsin area. Christmas is the start of our season which usually runs through May with Valentine’s Day being our busiest single day and Mother’s Day being our busiest week. Makes sense if you think about it as many people do not have gardens and the fragrance fills their hearts during the cold winter months. We fill that need!”

During the holidays, poinsettias are a popular Christmas plant. Though they have a bad rap, poinsettia plants are only mildly toxic to cats and dogs.

The milky white sap found in poinsettias contains chemicals called diterpenoid euphorbol esters and saponin-like detergents. While poinsettias are commonly “hyped” as

poisonous plants, they rarely are, and the poisoning is greatly exaggerated. When ingested, mild signs of vomiting, drooling, or rarely diarrhea may be seen. If the milky sap is exposed to skin, dermal irritation (including redness, swelling, and itchiness) may develop. Rarely, eye exposure can result in mild irritation. Signs are generally self-limiting and typically don’t require medical treatment unless severe and persistent. There is no antidote for poinsettia poisoning. That said, due to the low level of toxicity seen with poinsettia ingestion, medical treatment is rarely necessary unless clinical signs are severe. 24/7 (855) 764-7661 (PETPOISON HELPLINE)



Poinsettias can be kept year after year, and will bloom each year if you give the proper care. Poinsettias need a minimum of six hours of indirect sunlight each day. Protect the plants from freezing temperatures, especially when transporting them. Place them in a light-filled room away from drafts. They do best in rooms between 55 and 65 F at night and 65 to 70 F during the day. When the leaves begin to yellow or when the plant is no longer desired as an ornamental, gradually withhold water. The leaves will get pale in color and fall off. In mid-April pinch back the stems to 6-8 inches and place the plants in a sunny location. When new growth begins, you may use a liquid fertilizer to ensure the plants get enough minerals, especially calcium.



If cared for properly, a potted poinsettia can last for two to three months in your home. Some gardeners with a green thumb may enjoy the challenge of caring for a poinsettia long after Christmas in hopes of a second bloom next holiday. Water your poinsettia plant only when the top layer of soil feels dry to the touch. Thoroughly moisten the soil to the point that water is draining from the bottom of the growing pot. Discard any excess water that builds up in the saucer or decorative foil pot cover.

Restoring a healthy green Poinsettia plant from last year back to its original red color is no problem if you follow a few simple rules. Poinsettias need total darkness, for 14 hours each day, starting about eight weeks before you want to display them. To re-flower your poinsettia, you must keep the plant in complete darkness between 5pm and 8am daily from the end of September until color shows in the bracts (early to mid-December).

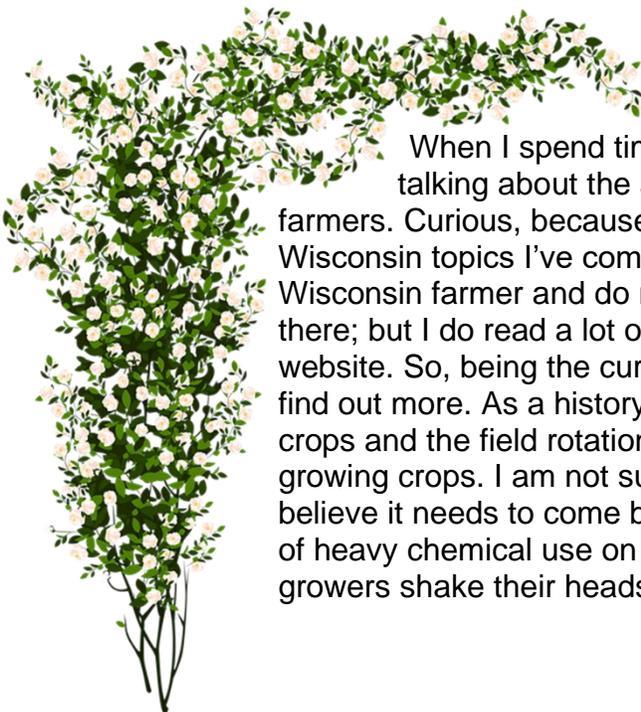
As beautiful as poinsettias are, they attract some of the most destructive insects. The two most common pests found in poinsettias are whiteflies and mites. Whiteflies look like aphids, as they are small and white, but they have wings. Whiteflies are common insect pests of poinsettia, hibiscus, chrysanthemum, and several other indoor plants. They are most often noticed when watering or handling a plant. They can be introduced from plants that have unsterilized soil or even from cut flowers – especially from the stinky old vase water. Fungus gnats are found in damp sewer areas, household drains, and wet plant soil. Fungus gnats lay their eggs in moist soil. On the good side, of this beautiful Christmas plant, Poinsettias remove the trace formaldehyde that exists in the air from insulation, grocery bags, particleboard, and other household items. This leads to cleaner air with fewer pollutants. But on the bad side, the proteins in the poinsettia are similar in structure to latex proteins and can therefore trigger allergic rhinitis and or conjunctivitis in people who are already sensitized. This can happen even without touching the leaves.

I hope you enjoy this little story I found on Facebook, One Christmas Eve long ago, a little girl from Mexico named Pepita was sad. More than anything, she wanted to give a fine present to the Christ Child at the church service that evening. But she was very poor and had no gift. As she walked sorrowfully to church with her cousin Pedro, he tried to console her. “Pepita,” he said, “I am certain that even the humblest gift given in love will be acceptable in His eyes.” So, Pepita gathered a bouquet of common weeds from the roadside and entered the church. As she approached the altar, her spirits lifted. She forgot the humbleness of her gift as she placed it tenderly at the feet of the Christ Child. Then, a miracle occurred as Pepita’s ordinary weeds burst into brilliant red blooms. They were called Flores de Noche Buena, Flowers of the Holy Night. We call them poinsettias. www.justforkidsmagine.com



NJ's Bits & Bobs

Nancy Jahnell-Barnes, Kenosha-Racine MGV



When I spend time in Indiana and Michigan, I see signs talking about the acreage of cover crops being utilized by farmers. Curious, because I never see this referenced in any Wisconsin topics I've come across. First off, let me say I am not a Wisconsin farmer and do not follow all the possible information out there; but I do read a lot of articles on the Wisconsin Master Gardener website. So, being the curious person I am, I did some research to find out more. As a history buff/former history teacher I know cover crops and the field rotation has been practiced since man began growing crops. I am not sure when this went out of fashion, but I believe it needs to come back into favor. I must say that I am not a fan of heavy chemical use on crops, and I imagine that makes some growers shake their heads.

So, with these disclaimers in mind, I want to tell you about cover crops. I plan to use cover crops in my garden beds. If you also do this, please pop me a line and tell me about it at westcoasternancy@gmail.com.

COVER CROPS ARE AN INDISPENSABLE TOOL

Cover crops are also known as “green manure” and generally refer to plants that are grown but not harvested. Cover crops are usually killed on the surface or incorporated into the soil before they mature. (This is the origin of the term green manure.) Since annual cover crop residues are usually low in lignin content and high in nitrogen, they typically decompose rapidly in the soil. Several types of plants can be used as a cover crop, grasses such as rye and oats are used to recycle nutrients, legumes are used to fix nitrogen and fast-growing crops like buckwheat and sorghum are used to smother weeds. They also slow erosion, enhance water availability, help control pests and diseases, increase biodiversity and bring a host of other benefits to the land.

Cover crops have also been shown to increase crop yields, break through a plow pan, add organic matter to the soil, prevent leaching of nutrients and attract pollinators. There is a growing body of evidence that shows cover crops improve resilience in the face of erratic and increasingly intensive rainfall, as well as under drought conditions. Cover crops help when it doesn't rain, they help when it rains, and they help when it pours! Many research studies from around the world demonstrate that **cover crops can increase yield**. The yield benefit is often apparent after just one year of using cover crops, and farmers will start to see other benefits, such as improved soil health, after several years of using them in crop rotation.

Determining when cover crops will pay for themselves is not as simple as comparing the added first-year costs with the return on the following crop. Cover crops should be viewed as a long-term investment that gradually improve farm management in multiple areas. Over time, this investment leads to lower costs and, sometimes, increased revenue. An analysis in the SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) bulletin, reveals that in some situations cover crops can pay off in year one, such as when they are used for grazing or to manage herbicide-resistant weeds. In other situations, such as when using them to alleviate compaction or to improve nutrient management, a payoff is more likely in the second or third year.



Guihua Chen and U of MD researchers demonstrated that brassica cover crops help reduce soil compaction.

This investment leads to lower costs and, sometimes, increased revenue. Cover crops were planted on 15.4 million acres in 2017, which was a 50% increase from 2012 to 2017. Eight states more than doubled their cover crop acreage in that same time. The numbers of farms planting cover crops increased by over 15% in that same five-year time.

*(Source: The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education ([SARE](#)) program
The SARE Cover Crop Topic Room has a wealth of information.)*

EVENTS in 2023

Please submit your events to halirenee@yahoo.com to be posted on the WIMGA website and in the next newsletter.



The banner features a cartoon illustration of a gardener on the left, wearing a hat, overalls, and boots, holding a watering can and a potted plant. The text 'VIRTUAL Gardening CONFERENCE' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'VIRTUAL' in purple, 'Gardening' in a large green script, and 'CONFERENCE' in purple. To the right is the 'GARDEN VISIONS' logo, which includes a stylized plant icon. Below the main title, it says 'Enjoy three topics from the comfort of your home!' in green. At the bottom left, the date and time 'January 28th 8:15 am to Noon' are listed in purple. At the bottom right, it says 'For details and registration go to www.gardenvisions.info' in black.

- **Fundamentals of Garden Layers**
Presented by Benjamin Vogt, PhD

Natural garden design is about letting plants guide the design and management as we translate wildness into gardening. In this presentation we will learn from natural plant communities to increase ecosystem function and climate resilience in our designed gardens.

- **Are Those Beetles Bugging You?**
Presented by Patrick (PJ) Liesch, MS

The destructive Japanese beetle, which has wreaked havoc in Wisconsin, was accidentally introduced on the roots of nursery stock from Japan for the 1916 World's Fair. In this presentation we will learn about their life cycle, and the various approaches to controlling of this noxious pest.

- **Orchids - Vanilla on the Edge**
Presented by Kenneth Cameron, PhD

The vanilla bean orchid is a member of the scientific family Orchidaceae, which includes a large variety of orchid species. Its fruit, the vanilla bean is a signature flavor and fragrance and part of a million-dollar industry. In this presentation Dr Cameron will discuss how these orchids are threatened, how scientists are seeking to reinforce its chances of survival and how our changing climate impacts orchids native to Wisconsin.



Outagamie County Master Gardener Garden Conference

Weblink / Information: www.ocmga.net

Contact: Anne Van Handel

gardenconference@ocmga.net

Cost: \$45

Keynote speaker: Melinda Myers.

More speakers are coming soon.

March 25, 2023

Registration: 8:00 - 8:30 AM

Conference: 8:30 - 3:30 PM

The Grand Meridian

2621 N Oneida Street

Appleton, WI 54911

A full day of fun and education, lunch, refreshments, vendors and prizes.

Let's Get Green & Growing

Brought to you by the Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers

Saturday March 25, 2023, 8:45am-2:45pm at the Rio High School

For more information visit the [Columbia Co Ext website](#)

Spring Garden Expo

Saturday, April 1, 2023 9 am - 3 pm



Get ready for gardening season with the Barron County Master Gardener Volunteers. **Lisa Hinzman Howard** will present “**Cheap Tricks: ‘Cause You Don’t Need To Spend A Fortune For Fabulous.**”. Explore using found items in unique, beautiful, funky and whimsical ways in the garden. Learn how to take it a step further and follow the seasons sharing tricks to use in your garden all year round. Lisa will also present everything you need to know about growing clematis. Horticultural

Extension Educator Diana Alfuth will talk about garden pests, from Japanese beetles to squash borers, and from powdery mildew to tomato blight. The final presenter is Dora Wood of Home Oasis Farm, Chippewa Falls. Learn to enjoy beauty and bounty from the same space, with edible perennials. Lunch included. For more information and to register: [Spring Garden Expo](#)

Mushroom Log Inoculation Workshop

Sponsored by the Ozaukee Master Gardeners:

Saturday, May 13

2 sessions: 10 AM or 1 PM

Cost: \$40/per person

116611 N. Grace Court, Mequon, WI

Includes 2 pre-drilled logs, spores for Oyster and Shiitake mushrooms, and care instructions to grow mushrooms for 4-7 years!



Learn more/register at: <https://www.ozaukeemastergardeners.org/events>



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2023 PDDC Plant Disease Talks

Brian Hudelson, UW-Madison Plant Pathology

Each month in 2023, the University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic will sponsor a Zoom presentation on a plant disease-related topic. Check out descriptions and a preview of the talks below. If you have questions about the presentations, feel free to contact Brian Hudelson at (608) 262-2863 or hudelson@wisc.edu. To register for one or more talks, visit <https://pddc.wisc.edu/>.

Fundamentals of Plant Diseases - January 25, 2023. 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Learn about disease-causing organisms and the symptoms they cause, as well as information on environmental factors that favor disease development. Also learn about disease-like disorders caused by non-biological factors such as nutrient imbalances, pesticide exposures, environmental pollutants and adverse environmental conditions.

Growing Healthy Plants: Basics in Plant Disease Management

February 22, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about common methods for disease control, their pros and cons, and how you can adapt these techniques for use in your own home garden.

Dr. Death's Plant Disease Predictions for 2023 March 22, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about Brian Hudelson's predictions of what diseases will be prevalent and of importance in 2023. Keep in mind however, that if Brian were actually able to predict accurately, he would not be giving this talk, but would be relaxing on a beach somewhere, drink in hand, having made millions on the stock market.

The Science (and Art) of Plant Disease Diagnosis April 26, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about the fascinating and complex process involved in identifying plant diseases. Learn about how to visually assess for plant disease symptoms, as well as about the range of lab tests that are often needed to confirm the identity of plant diseases.

New and Emerging Plant Diseases May 24, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about plant diseases that have recently arrived in Wisconsin and have potential economic and/or regulatory impact, as well as more established diseases that have the potential to significantly impact the state in the near future.

Vegetable Diseases June 21, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about common diseases that can adversely affect the plants in your home vegetable garden. This presentation will include information on how to identify the diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.

Diseases of Herbaceous Ornamentals July 26, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about common diseases that can adversely affect the herbaceous plants in your home garden. This presentation will include information on how to identify the diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.

Deciduous Tree and Shrub Diseases August 23, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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

**The Bad and the Ugly: Ten Plant Diseases Not to Compost
September 27, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Certain plant diseases are so horrible or so deadly that composting is not an appropriate way to get rid of affected plants. Learn about some of these diseases and their proper management.

Diseases of Houseplants October 25, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

As gardening moves indoors for the winter, growing houseplants can prove challenging. Learn about common houseplant diseases that adversely affect your indoor gardening efforts. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.

Diseases of Evergreens November 15, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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

Ten Cool Diseases You Can Learn to Love (and Identify by Eye)

December 13, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about ten fascinating plant diseases with such distinctive signs and symptoms that you can identify them by eye. This presentation will cover the biology of the organisms that cause these diseases and tidbits of disease control information as well.





Our plants can bring us beauty all year 'round. This photo from Ellen Terwilliger (Eau Claire MGV) is a fall-blooming clematis with the touch of a first frost. And the winter photos preceding from Carol Kettner (Barron MGV) after our lovely 15 inches of snow. A great deal of my gardening includes taking snapshots of the beauty in my yard. I welcome your 'snaps' for our newsletter and website. If you can add a few words regarding the subject, even better! Article ideas and contributions may be sent to **Hali Dessecker** at halirenee@yahoo.com

Photos and story ideas can include MGV projects, community collaborations and horticulture or educational articles. Please note your county association, the number of volunteers and/or hours involved and community significance.

Please send any WIMGA related questions/concerns to news@wimga.org.

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



Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (WIMGA)

Serving its members since 1992

The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association Newsletter is published six (6) times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November). Articles, artwork and ideas are welcome, final selection and editing are the responsibility of the editorial staff. The opinions reflected in this publication are expressions from individual master gardeners or associations and not necessarily the viewpoint of the UW-Madison Department of Horticulture, Division of Extension Master Gardener Program Office.

January 2023 Newsletter

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