



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.

### May Flowers

*Marilyn Gorham, St Croix Valley MGV*

After a very long winter, it seems Spring is finally here, and the plants and birds are as ready for it as I am. My garden work has begun. The garden centers and nurseries are filled with beautiful, inviting plants but do I have a coherent design for my garden, or are these new plants simply “random thoughts”? I think I need a refresher course before I go shopping.



WIMGA’s next educational offering is “**Designing a Beautiful and Sustainable Landscape**”, presented in three building block sessions. Instructor, Diana Alfuth, is very knowledgeable and entertaining and has taught Landscape Design at both the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The sessions are open to our members and the public so please invite your interested friends, family members and co-workers to join us. More information regarding this program is located on the next page (2).

WIMGA is charging a fee for this educational event. During the past year, as some local associations and MGs have left the MG Program, WIMGA’s revenue has decreased. We are estimating a 20% membership decrease this year reducing the funds available for WIMGA programming. If WIMGA is to continue offering frequent, high caliber education to our members, WIMGA needs to find ways to raise revenue. Charging a small fee for our educational opportunities is one way we can do that. You, as WIMGA members, will benefit from the revenue we can raise for programming.

If you have thoughts for potential programming, please let us know. We're always looking for new ideas!

*Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA President*

## **Designing a Beautiful and Sustainable Landscape**

With Diana Alfuth, Landscape Designer & Instructor

This 3-week course will teach you what you need to know to create a beautiful, sustainable, landscape paradise. You'll learn about the principles of design, how to analyze the existing landscape, and how to create functional spaces for the things you want to do in the landscape. A step-by-step process will show you how to determine bedlines, locate focal points, use and combine plants in an effective and beautiful way, and more. This course will help you create an overall design for a unified, beautiful landscape that is also functional, maintainable and environmentally sound.



With a master's degree in horticulture emphasizing Plant Pathology and Landscape Design from the University of Minnesota, Diana Alfuth has taught Landscape Design at both the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin-River Falls for many years. In addition to having her own landscape design business, she has been a horticulture educator for UW-Extension for over 22 years. She enjoys helping people and communities enjoy the benefits of plants and nature.

[\*\*REGISTER for Landscape Design Class\*\*](#)

This course will be three consecutive Zoom Sessions on Tuesday (May 16, May 23, & May 30) at 6:30pm and will be recorded for later viewing. The session topics include:

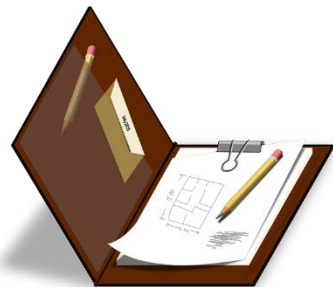
Session 1: Evaluating existing landscape, determining goals and needs, exploring overall design principles.

Session 2: Creating the unified design's framework, locating functional spaces and focal points, determining bedlines and other things that define the landscape spaces.

Session 3: Continuing determination of bedlines and dealing with obstacles in the landscape, discussing how to choose and continue plants and plant elements design.

This class is being provided as a fund-raiser for WIMGA and there will be a charge to participate: \$30 for WIMGA members and \$45 for non-members. All funds will be used to support WIMGA's programming. Please feel free to share with your gardening friends or others interested in creating a great looking yard like new homeowners!

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



## 2023 Continuing Education Program for Members

By Vicky Hopp, Washington County MGV

**Mark Dwyer's New & Exciting Annuals** recording is now available on the WIMGA website until June 1. You will need the Member's Only password to access the recording. (The password is listed on all emails sent to members.)

The Continuing Education Committee will take the summer off for scheduling programs and plans are in progress for a new set of seminars starting in the fall. 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).

September 27, 6:30pm Matt Wallrath, Invasive Species Program Mgr.,  
Upper Sugar River Watershed Association  
October 26, 6:30pm Dr. Susan Carpenter, Restoring Native Prairie

We are looking for your suggestions for new speakers or appealing topics. Please contact Becky Gutzman, [buckhill@centurylink.net](mailto:buckhill@centurylink.net) with your suggestions.

### Dandelions!

by: Donna Mae Stohlmann, St Croix Valley MGV

WEEDS – I dislike all of them – Chickweed, Stinging Nettles, Lamb Quarters, and the DANDELIONS! All edible plants, but it doesn't mean I have to like them. Let's look at the pretty Dandelion. Nearly the entire Dandelion weed can be consumed in one way or another. The only inedible part is the stem, which contains a very bitter, milky substance.



Dandelions or better known as WEEDS are springing up everywhere. Can we figure out where they came from, what we can do with them, and how to get rid of them? Dandelion is a perennial weed of lawns, landscape, and ornamental beds. Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) produces a deep taproot, which makes hand removal difficult for established plants. Leaves grow in a basal rosette. The word dandelion comes from a phrase that means "the lion teeth." People started calling them this because God made the dandelion with leaves that look like the sharp teeth of a lion. Dandelion is another weed whose origin is from Europe and Asia. European settlers brought dandelion seed and seedlings to America in the mid-1600s. They cultivated the dandelions in their gardens as a food source and for medicinal uses.

(<https://www.britannica.com/plant/dandelion>)



I do love their golden yellow flowers in the early spring, as dandelions represent the return of life, the rebirth of growth and green after this harsh winter we all had, and a display of abundant strength and power. As dandelions turn to seed, I remember as a child I rushed to pick them. I would close my eyes, make a wish, and blow the seeds into the air. No one knows for sure how or why people started making wishes on dandelions. There is no evidence that all these wishes really are fulfilled after puffing dandelions seeds around in the wind.

Much more common than the practical uses, are the many superstitions that have been attached to dandelions over the years.

1. In addition to granting wishes, many people believe that dandelion seeds will carry your thoughts and dreams to loved ones when you blow them into the air.
2. Others believe that dandelions may be able to tell you if you loved. Legend has it that if you can blow all the seeds off a dandelion with a single breath, then the person you love will love you back.
3. Dandelions may help you tell the time or even the weather. For example, one superstition holds that the number of breaths it takes you to blow all the seeds off a dandelion equals the hour of the day.
4. Amateur meteorologists might use dandelions as an informal barometer to predict the weather. When dandelions have seeded, they will extend into a full ball in good weather. If rain is on the way, however, they will fold like an umbrella and remain tightly closed.

<http://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-dandelions/>

Dandelions sprout when the soil temperature reaches 50 F and germinate more quickly when soil temperatures are closer to 77 F. They are hardy, resistant to most diseases and pests, tolerate poor soil nutrients and periods of drought. Mowing dandelions does not contribute to the spread of



them, but it also does not stop the spread. A thick lawn is the best method for preventing dandelions and other broadleaf weeds in the lawn. Mow your lawn at a high setting on your mower and follow a regular feeding program to achieve a lawn that is thick enough to keep weeds like dandelions from establishing in the first place. To stop the spread of dandelions, you must reduce seed spreading by collecting the dandelion seed heads into a bag and taking them out of your yard.

You can use the natural acidity of white vinegar or apple cider vinegar to destroy your dandelions. Simply pour pure vinegar into a spray bottle and spray the unwanted plant until it is covered in vinegar. Within a few hours, the leaves will wither and turn brown. The other problem with vinegar is that it kills the leaves, but the tap root remains, so the dandelion comes back. The quickest and least labor-intensive method of getting rid of dandelions is to spray them with a broadleaf herbicide that will kill the entire plant, not just the leaves, without harming the surrounding grass. Weedkiller applied in fall moves directly to roots, which helps get rid of dandelions permanently. Avoid using lawn weed and feed products in fall to kill dandelions, because if your lawn goes dormant for winter, it won't absorb the fertilizer. Dandelion flowers reach heights of 6 to 24 inches, and the root will go as deep as 10 to 15 feet.



Dandelion flowers are an essential source of food for bees and other pollinators. Some people say dandelions are good for your lawn (not me, it's a WEED!) Their wide-spreading roots loosen hard-packed soil, aerate the earth, and help reduce erosion. The deep taproot pulls nutrients such as calcium from deep in the soil and makes it available to other plants. Several birds eat dandelion flowers, buds and seeds, and hummingbirds use the seeds as construction materials for their nests. Bumblebees, honeybees, various insects, beetles, hoverflies and butterflies use the nectar from the flowers as food. House sparrows and Goldfinches eat the seeds. Let the dandelions grow and you will be able to spot nature's beauty on your lawn.

If you are still not convinced about the virtues of dandelions, here are five health benefits from this wonderful plant as identified by the Cleveland Clinic:

- ☼ Provide antioxidants
- ☼ Reduce inflammation
- ☼ Manage blood pressure
- ☼ Control blood sugar
- ☼ Lower cholesterol

And, of course, there is always dandelion wine!



## WIMGA Grants

*Roseann Meixelsperger, North Country MGV, WIMGA Treasurer*

Thank you to everyone for their patience in receiving information on the 2022 Grant requests. Awarded to date is \$5,488. Budgeted for 2023 is \$8,850. The Finance Committee consisting of your Treasurer, President, Past-President, Secretary and a Board Member enjoyed reading all the requests and giving them consideration for the WIMGA grant program. It was exciting to see all the requests for educational grants and to assist associations in carrying out their projects in the community.

Remember that each association receiving grants will be responsible for submitting a written report about how the grant was used. The progress report may be submitted electronically to the WIMGA Treasurer, [treasurer.wimga@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.wimga@gmail.com), by July 31. Details to be included in the report can be found on the Grant Application Criteria document on the [website](#) along with new grant applications.

### WIMGA Educational Grants - Applications Awarded in 2022

#### Two \$100 Grants were awarded to:

Jefferson County MGA	2022-2023 4th Grade Garden Science West Elementary Grade School, Jefferson WI
North Central WI MGA	Purchase flowers and decorations for "Free Children's Planting" area at annual plant sale

#### Four \$250 Grants were awarded to:

Clark County MGA	Spring Conference speaker honorariums & snacks
North Central WI MGA	Technical resources for ZOOM Paid \$149 for Zoom
North East WI MGA	2023 Mongin Garden Speakers series Speaker Fees
Northern Lights MGA	Seed starter kit, Soilless Mix, Grow Light, and Light Stand to germinate and grow seeds from the All-America Selections organization

#### Ten \$400 Grants were awarded to:

Barron County MGA	Assist with annual Spring Expo to offset Speaker Costs
Door County MGA	Expand garden resources for the Baileys Harbor Senior Nutrition Program, i.e., tools, elevated planters, rain barrel and bench
Fond du Lac County MGA	"A Day in the Garden" seminar costs
Grant County MGA	Educational Winter Season webinars "Beat the Winter Blues" three sessions
Jefferson Co.	Replace raised garden beds in the WE GROW Program @ West Elementary School in Jefferson WI

Marquette County MGA	Purchase trees and plants & signs for Nature Trail
Master Gardeners of North	Conover Town Park maintenance supplies and grasses to camouflage septic vents - Partial \$388.75
North East WI MGA	Start a seed garden. Need start up supplies including seed cleaning screens, seed packets, blossom bags, and seed saving reference books.
North Central WI MGA	Annual educational garden conference "Garden Visions 2023" 3 Speakers Fees
Northern Lights MGA	2023 Spring Garden Conference horticultural educational presentations and other conference costs
Racine Kenosha MG	Tent for educational booth at the Kenosha Harbor Market - Approved but declined - lack of Volunteers
Saint Croix MGA	Speaker fee on Wildflowers, Nature's Stunning Beauty in Full". Approved pending validation of Speaker's fees
Winnebago Co. MGA	Restore the Old Council Tree with disease resistant Variety of elm and add a bronze plaque to explain the significance of the tree.

Requests for a 2023 grant are due by October 1. Applications should be sent to the WIMGA Finance Committee Chairman: Roseann Meixelsperger. Electronic applications are preferred. Send to [treasurer.wimga@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.wimga@gmail.com). More information can be found under the Grants tab on the WIMGA website.

## Barron County Grant Report

*Hali Dessecker, Barron County MG*

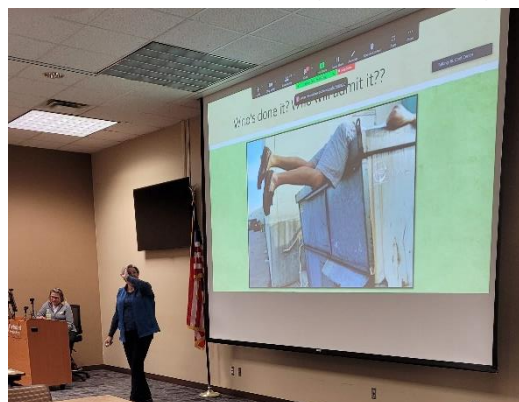
Thanks to a \$400 WIMGA Grant, Barron County was able to hold their first face-to-face Spring Garden Expo since Covid. The grant allowed us to obtain a speaker from out of state: Iowa Master Gardener, Lisa Hinzman Howard.

Author and Speaker. She presented "Cheap Tricks: 'Cause you don't need to spend a fortune for Fabulous" and "Clematis, Queen of the Vines". Lisa's entertaining view of using found items in unique, beautiful, funky and whimsical ways in the garden gave everyone new ideas for seasonal tricks of garden design.



*Dumpster-diving may be an option, if you are so inclined.*

Our other speakers were Horticultural Extension Educator Diana Alfuth talking about Garden Pests, and Dora Wood, of Home Oasis Farm and Master Gardener Volunteer on Edible Perennials.



This year, the volunteers teamed up with the Northwood Technical College in Rice Lake through their Community Education Program. This partnership was very successful as the technical college assisted with the publicity, registrations, collection of fees and payment of speakers. When we had an unscheduled blizzard on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the technical college was prepared and able to switch to a Zoom option for attendees unable to travel. We were very pleased with the overall attendance despite the weather. Barron County Master Gardener Volunteers were on-hand to assist with registration, traffic flow, helping vendors and selling raffle tickets. This new partnership will redefine our community education for the future.



Three great raffle items were available, and several door prizes were donated by our vendors. Money earned from the raffle sales will support community programs for the Barron County Master Gardeners.

If you wish to submit an article featuring the use of the WIMGA Grant money received, please submit the article to the newsletter committee at [halirenee@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## EVENTS in 2023

Please submit your events to [halirenee@yahoo.com](mailto:halirenee@yahoo.com) or [news@wimga.org](mailto:news@wimga.org) to be posted on the WIMGA website and in the next newsletter. Newsletter submissions are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the newsletter.



**OZAUKEE MASTER GARDENERS**

**PLANT SALE**  
Saturday, May 20, 9 AM-Noon

OZAUKEE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Expo Center – W67N890 Washington Avenue,  
Cedarburg





Portage County  
**MASTER  
GARDENERS**

**Portage County  
Annual Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 11am-3pm  
Portage County Annex Building,  
1462 Strongs Avenue  
Stevens Point



**The Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee** is participating in Open Days, a national program of The Garden Conservancy. Gardens are open from 10 AM to 4 PM. A premium Digging Deeper event, ***Discover the Magic of Greenfire Woods***, is also available in River Hills on Saturday, August 19th at either 10am - Noon or 2pm – 4pm.

Tickets are available separately for each garden at \$10 per person per garden for Open Days, and \$40 per person for Greenfire Woods; ***advance purchase is required and tickets are limited.*** Children 12 and under are admitted free with a paid adult admission.

Go to [Open Days Garden Tours](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

Save The Date!

*Mineral Point Garden Tour*

Saturday, July 22, 2023



It's back!

From 10:00 until 4:00, enjoy a delightfully eclectic assortment of private and public garden spaces throughout our charming community. Sponsored by the Mineral Point Historical Society, tickets for the garden tour are now available online ([mineralpointhistory.org](http://mineralpointhistory.org)) and will also be for sale on the porch of the Gundry House at Orchard Lawn (234 Madison Street) the day of the tour.

**Come out and see Mineral Point at its blooming best!**



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](mailto:hudelson@wisc.edu). To register for one or more talks, visit <https://pddc.wisc.edu/>.

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

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 – 8:30pm**

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 – 8:30pm**

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 – 8:30pm**

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.



View information on the whole series and complete details on all these events on our website: [wimga.org](http://wimga.org).



Ever seen a Junco like this before? **Leucism** is the result of a genetic mutation, where reduced pigmentation shows up as a white or lighter color. How do we know this is a Junco? That chunky, seed-eating beak on a stout ground forager are all good indications of a junco or goldfinch. An American Goldfinch might act and look slightly similar, but would have a notched tail. Juncos migrate to Wisconsin in spring from their wintering grounds down south. The early appearance of this little bugger is a good hint of

an early spring migrant. We welcome your 'snaps' for our newsletter and website. Please add a few words regarding the subject. Article ideas and contributions may be sent to **Hali Dessecker** at [halirenee@yahoo.com](mailto:halirenee@yahoo.com)

Please send any WIMGA related questions/concerns to [news@wimga.org](mailto: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.*

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*The Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program supports a network of individuals dedicated to horticulture education, service, and lifelong learning. Through unbiased university research-based horticulture training they are equipped to address needs and opportunities in their community and throughout the state.*

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