



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.

July Reflections

Marilyn Gorham, St Croix Valley MGV

It's July and piles of compost and mulch still sit on my driveway waiting to be used. Extreme drought has kept my attention focused on simply keeping things alive. The critters know where to come for food in a drought and my plants are nibbled nightly while coated with and surrounded by every repellent I can find.

Facing these challenges I remember the phrase, "Do what you love. Love what you do." Master Gardeners do that every day as we plan, plant, maintain and harvest the gardens that we work in. If we didn't love what we do, we wouldn't overachieve on our volunteer hours. We would do just the minimum to stay in good standing, nothing more. Instead, we do whatever it takes because our efforts mean something special to the organizations we volunteer for. It means something to the children, the underserved and senior citizens as they enjoy our fresh grown produce from our Community Gardens or to the elder who now views a freshly planted garden at their care facility, recalling times in their own garden.



Despite MG Program challenges we still care; and we care deeply about the continued success of the Master Gardener Program. We all know it's been a challenge for all of us in the Program over the past few years, but we're still here. We're staying. We love being a Master Gardener – it is what we do.

Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA President

2023 Continuing Education Updates

The Continuing Education Committee has plans for programs 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).

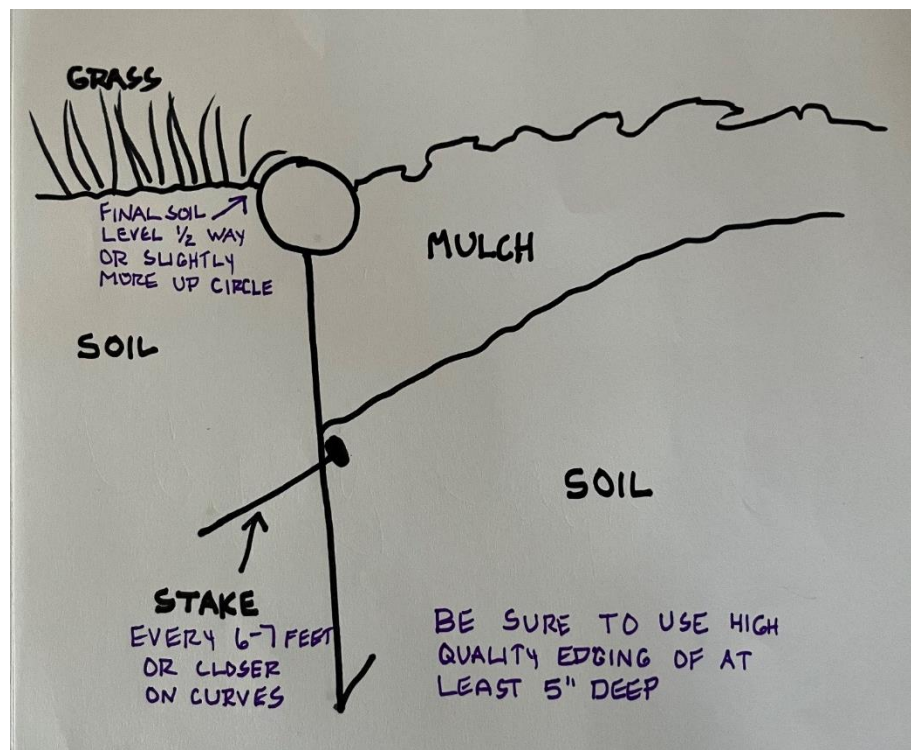
September 27, 6:30pm	Matt Wallrath, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator Invasive Species
October 26, 6:30pm	Dr. Susan Carpenter, Restoring Native Prairie Stream & Savanna: Restoration in Progress
January 16, 2024	Craig LeHoullier, Bring Your Garden to the Sun: All About Container and Straw Bale Gardening

In September, join Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator and invasive species expert **Matt Wallrath** of the University of Wisconsin-Madison as we discuss organisms spread near you. The current edition of state laws and trends will be presented, as well as tools for identification and reporting invasives. Bring an open mind and questions!

Landscape Design Summary:

WIMGA was very pleased to present our first series of seminars on Landscape Design. Despite being a new offering for our organization, we pulled it off with a minimum of learning skills (glitches) in providing this educational experience. Plans are also in the works for another paid seminar in the winter to be made available to WIMGA members and non-members.

Many attendees have asked for more information on landscape design. The [Elements of Design website](#) is a site where people can create an account and search the database for plants to use. Also posted here are instructions to properly install edging in your garden. This graphic will also be posted under the Resources tab on the WIMGA website.



International Master Gardener Conference

Marilyn Gorham, St Croix Valley MGV

Where can you find over 1,100 gardeners in the same place at the same time? It happened on June 18 – 22 at the International Master

International Master
Gardener Conference



June 18 – 22, 2023
Overland Park, Kansas

Gardener Conference (IMGC) held in Overland Park, Kansas. Johnson County, Kansas. Master Gardeners partnered with Kansas State Extension to present a full schedule of high-quality speakers and educational events. Five years in the planning stage, due to COVID restrictions, the IMGC featured 12 bus tours, 11 workshops, 5 keynote presentations, 3 evening featured speakers and over 50 educational sessions. Forty-four states, Canada and England were represented at the conference. 280 Johnson County Master Gardeners filled over 950 volunteer slots. The event was well-planned, and the facilities provided easy access to the vendors, hotels and the conference rooms. Evening social hours allowed for conversations with other MGs throughout the country and trying to find another WIMGA member in a room of 1,100 people proved difficult at best.

Keynote speakers included Leigh Hunt, Principal Horticultural Advisor, Royal Horticultural Society, United Kingdom; Sarah Dykman, the first person to bicycle alongside monarch butterflies as they migrated over 10,000 miles; Dan Hinkley, Director Emeritus, and creator of Windcliff and Heronswood Gardens, two of the most fabled gardens in the world and Dr. Charles Rice, Professor of Soil Microbiology in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State and co-author of a report on climate change that received a Nobel Prize in 2007.

Congratulations to Columbia County MGs! WIMGA attendees watched with pride as Becky Gutzman accepted for the Columbia County Master Gardeners award for Second Place in the Youth Category of the David Gibby Search for Excellence Awards. More information about the Award will be in a future newsletter. Start thinking about submitting your projects for the 2025 conference.

Networking among the attendees provided insight into how other states manage their Master Gardener Programs. One working session was led by Dr. Jeff Wilson, Assistant Horticulture Professor/State MG Coordinator, Mississippi State University Extension. His comments paralleled some of the challenges MGs faced in Wisconsin over the past 3 years.



He explained that a recent study of the MGs in his State showed that Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are motivated by:

- A willingness to learn
- Desire to help others
- Socializing with others
- Being part of something bigger than themselves

He reflected on how he, as an agent, motivates his MGs:

- Communication – regularly and clearly
- Offer educational/service opportunities
- Offer recognition – awards, acknowledgement
- Offer encouragement/praise

He also stated that his Program retains Master Gardeners through:

- Communication
- Providing enough projects to keep MGs interested
- Meeting regularly
- Showing appreciation/reward

Some county groups in Mississippi struggle in his opinion because of:

- No exciting projects
- Lack of motivation
- Poor Communication (the primary reason)
- Poor leadership
- Change of leadership/command

In the first two years after training, 82% of those who enrolled in the new online course completed the training. The average number of years as an active master gardener in Mississippi is 4.2 years with 58.3 being the average number of volunteer hours. Most new Master Gardeners are recruited by word of mouth by current Master Gardeners, seeing Master Gardener projects in their community, attending gardening education programs online, seeing demonstration gardens, and through home garden assistance.

The program has learned to accommodate new working/younger interns through quarterly night meetings and weekend projects. Mississippi learned that Tuesday and Thursday afternoon sessions primarily attracted retirees so evenings and Saturdays are now the focus. Promotional videos, in his opinion, are key to attracting a more diverse and younger group of trainees. Mississippi online training is available on YouTube because of its ease of access. His office sends out an email to the trainee at completion of the training to let them know which local county association is in their area to help keep them connected to programs and projects. He believes that a connection at the county level is critical to the success of the trainee.

When COVID disrupted their training, the Mississippi State MG Program moved to Canvas for its Master Gardener training. Challenges the Program faced included:

- People don't follow directions
- If one cannot successfully register online, they most likely will not be successful in completing the training
- Knowing what it means to be "online" – for instance, support isn't available 24 hours a day when you decide to login at midnight
- People not paying attention to timelines

The next IMGC is being hosted by the Texas Master Gardener Program. The 2025 conference theme is "There is no Planet B" and will be a virtual conference held August 25-28, 2025. All sessions and speakers will be available for four months after the conference. Mark your calendars for another high quality, educational event.



WIMGA Attendees: from left to right, Marilyn Gorham, Diane Kachel, Jeanne Mueller, Becky Gutzman, Mike Hotter, Connie Nemetz, Sharon Roy, Cindy Bredow, Brenda Dahlton, Barbara Swietlik, Doris Fons, Ardyce Piehl and Pat Trapp; representing Columbia, Jefferson, Portage, Sauk, SEWMG St Croix Valley and Waukesha counties.



These ladies are Mary Ann Pedtke, Carver/Scott Co MN (left) and Rita Socha, Columbia Co WI (right) (sisters) who had to leave early.

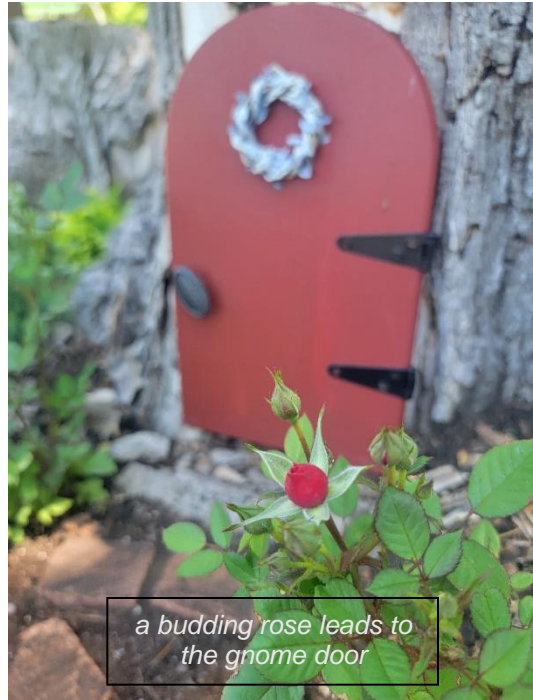
State Fair Gardens

Article and Photos by Susan Schlieve, SEW MGV

Work is underway at the State Fair gardens in West Allis and the Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners (SEWMG) are busy tending to their garden patch. Every year they interact with fairgoers answering questions and fostering interest in gardening. Features include a gnome garden which is a big hit with the kids, the container competition which gives attendees the opportunity to vote for their favorite, and the rock garden which shows that some cactus and succulents can indeed survive our Wisconsin winters!



Belinda Brocker tends to the rock garden



a budding rose leads to the gnome door

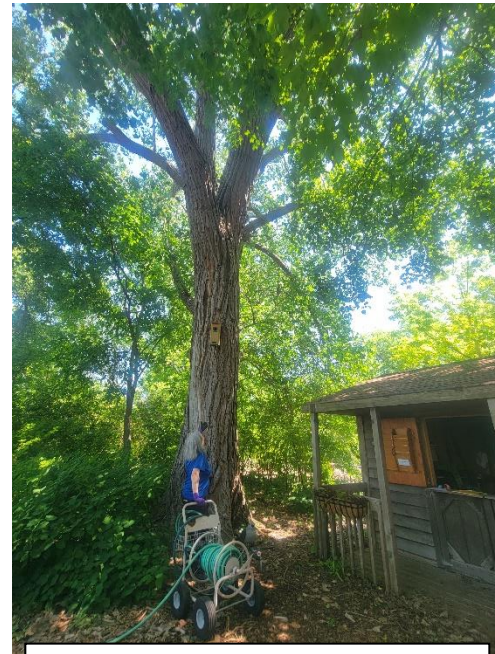


Jane Belanger watering the central bed



Jane Browne eradicating weeds in the native garden

The focus this year is on trees; two dead Spruce are being removed along with more Buckthorn, and a Musclewood and Ironwood will be planted, courtesy of Johnson's Nursery. A new sign, a handout on the top ten trees to plant in Wisconsin, and a plaque commemorating a 114-year-old Cottonwood will also be featured.



Mary Wolverton shows off the 114-year-old Cottonwood next to the information booth



Krista Mozina dividing perennials

The 172nd Wisconsin State Fair runs from August 3 – 13 so mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

Grant Note from WIMGA Treasurer, Roseann Meixelsperger: 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, 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 Grant for Garden Visions

Carole Machek, Garden Visions 2023 Chairperson, NCWMGV

North Central Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (NCWMGA) would like to thank you for the financial assistance of \$400 provided to us in 2023 for our annual winter gardening conference, Garden Visions 2023. We held this conference in a virtual format again this year, the third year we have used this format. We will determine later this year if we return to an in-person format as our participants are split in the middle regarding remaining in the virtual vs returning to in-person format.



Our participation was down somewhat this year, most likely due to the large amount of gardening information opportunities now available online. Nevertheless, the conference was very successful and your financial assistance was used toward our three speaker's expenses and the cost of technical support through Northcentral Technical College.

Satisfaction Survey: 97% of participants were very satisfied or satisfied with the information presented and 99% learned new information at the conference. Again, thank you so much for the financial support to Garden Visions 2023 and for your support in past years.

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. More information can be found under the Grants tab on the WIMGA website.

Thinking About Your Fall Garden

by: Tracy Thomas, Washington County MGV

This is the time of year to start thinking about planting a fall garden. The gardening/harvesting season does not need to end when the tomatoes and peppers have been harvested. There are many ways to extend your harvest into November using cold tolerant vegetables. It's a good idea to buy your fall seeds along with this year's summer vegetable seeds. If you want to wait, Territorial Seeds has a fall vegetable catalog that specializes in fall crops that comes out in summer.

Lettuce is my favorite fall crop. There are many lettuce varieties that can withstand hard frosts and bounce right back to give you a harvest. When buying seeds, look for a reference to cold tolerance. Some of my favorites are Winter Brown (Territorial), Winter Density (Territorial and Pinetree Gardens), White Seeded Samara (Adaptive Seeds), Adaptive Seeds Cool Season Mix (Adaptive Seeds), and Pinetree Winter Lettuce Mix (Pinetree Gardens).



I plant my fall lettuce seeds into the garden on August 31 and start harvesting the first week of October. Up until the end of August, I plant summer lettuce every two weeks to ensure a continuous supply. Lettuce can be successfully grown throughout the hot summer months if it is successively planted. It will bolt fairly quickly but there is another crop right behind it so that is not a problem.

Other crops that provide fresh vegetables until and past hard frosts are:



Turnips – plant at end of July for 60 day turnips.

Winter Radishes – these radishes are not the same as the red radishes planted in early spring. They will store all winter in the refrigerator. Types include red meat and Daikon types. Johnny’s has an excellent selection of seeds. My favorite is Watermelon (Pinetree Seeds). I plant these at the end of July for an October harvest. I like mine to be big. Planting later will result in smaller radishes.

Spinach and Arugula – plant at the end of August.

Chard – plant in the beginning to middle of August.
The end of August will yield baby leaves.

Chinese Cabbage – depending on the number of days, plant in the beginning to end of August.

Kale – since spring planted kale is huge now, replant for small salad sized kale in the middle of August.

Mizuna, Tatsoi, Bok Choy and Mustard – plant at the end of August.

Cilantro – successively plant every 3 weeks throughout the summer to have a continuous supply with the last planting by August 31.

Carrots, Beets, Rutabagas – need to be planted in June.

Leeks – are extremely cold tolerant. They need to be planted as early as possible in spring because they are a 100 day or longer crop.



Planting fall crops also enriches your soil by providing a cover crop for winter.

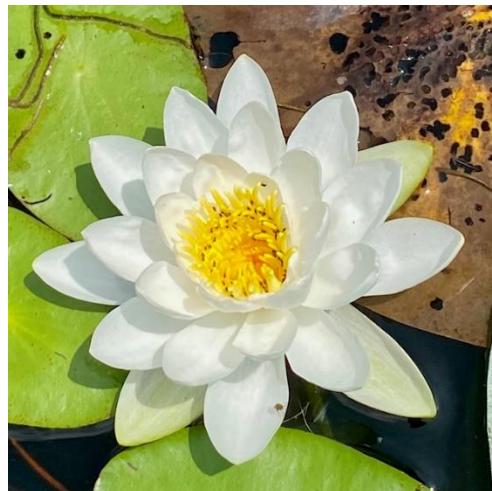
Disclaimer Master Gardeners do not endorse any seed companies.

WATER LILIES

by: Donna Mae Stohlmann, St Croix Valley MGV

Water lilies bloom from May through September, putting July in the middle of the prime season. In frost-free regions, water lilies bloom year-round. But you must be lucky to catch a bloom, as each individual flower lasts for about four days before sinking under the water to decompose. <https://www.britannica.com> 'Flowering Plants'

Because they rest on the water surface, the flowers and pads provide shade, keeping the water cooler and preventing algae that thrive in heat from growing in excess. Water lilies also shelter fish from predatory birds and the heat of the sun. Water Lily in the romantic sense is considered purity of heart, may also relate to the Greek water nymphs, who were virgins and symbols of purity.



A Native American legend says the water lily was once a star. It fell from the sky and, striking the water, it changed into a flower. The Roman writer Pliny the Elder in his Natural History wrote that water lilies were an antidote for magic love potions. If the flower closes at night, it protects itself from wind, dew, and rain so during the day, the pollinating insects can come. If the flower closes in the day, it relies on night pollinators, such as bats, to do its pollinating. Deer, beaver, muskrat, and other rodents will consume the leaves and rhizomes of white-water lily, while the seeds are eaten by ducks. All water lilies are poisonous and contain an alkaloid called nupharin in almost all their parts, except for the seeds and in some species, the tubers.

Water lilies grow in a rainbow of colors, including pink, red, orange, yellow, purple, and blue. Tropical varieties take on jewel tones (purple, orange, bright blue, and yellow), whereas hardier varieties lean toward a pastel palette. Sometimes the blossoms on hardy varieties change shades as they age. Even the leaf colors vary from deep green to rich burgundy. Each variety is unique, whether it's the shape, size, color, fragrance, or blooming pattern. Water lilies can be found in ponds, lakes, and streams all over the world. The largest variety is fittingly called the giant water lily. This massive flower can grow to a diameter of 3 to 6 feet and can support 66 pounds of weight.



Water lilies mean many things in different areas of the world, but they have special significance in Buddhism and Hinduism. For these religions, the Lotus, a type of Water Lily symbolizes resurrection because these flowers close at night and reopen in the morning, like a spiritual rebirth. Buddhists also believe that the water lily represents enlightenment because a beautiful bloom emerges from the dark mud.

The impressionist painter Claude Monet often used water lilies as a subject. He painted more than 250 pieces that featured this plant, and several of them are among his most famous works of art.





Constructing a Raised Bed

Text & photos by Connie Oneill, Washington Co MGV

In 2023 I began the process of installing four 2x2x8 open bottom raised garden beds at my new home as my knees and back needed the support of raised gardening. Each bed was assembled with SST hardware, powder coated steel panels, lined with 8 mil plastic sheeting and landscape fabric and installed on a concrete pad surrounding a raised deck.

After much research on drainage, I learned concrete does have the ability to dry beds out quickly as well as slow drainage. As a solution I topped the concrete pad with plastic 12x12x1/2

inch interlocking plastic deck squares containing slats for drainage. As the containers were constructed and placed, each open bottom container was lined with landscape fabric to ensure the soil could drain but not fall through the slats of the plastic decking squares. Eight mil plastic was used to line the sides of the container to extend the life of the powder coated steel as well as ensure any possible deterioration over time from weather did not reach and/or leach into the plants over time.



To ensure each bed was watered without

needing to drag a hose out every day, added PVC piping rated for RV water systems constructed in domes, drilled holes in the pipe to act as a sprinkler system and added hose attachment fittings. The final step was to create protection for wildlife which was easily done by draping fabric tulle and securing it with rocks found along the border of my new property.

As flowers emerge, I open the fabric to allow pollinators to do their work and cover the beds in the evening. Currently I have a small sampling of garden veggies thriving and picked my first set of radishes.

Master Gardeners Volunteer: Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility

Nancy Jahnel-Barnes, Kenosha-Racine MGV

A powerful partnership is growing in an unlikely place. Master Gardeners started volunteering their time inside the Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility in 2019. The food grown provides fresh produce for the kitchen, and the young men on the crew get something special too. Behind the high walls and barbed wire fences at the facility, something is growing.

"It gives them a sense of hope and purpose," said yard guard Gary Grymkoski. Flowers are an unexpected pop of color surrounded by concrete, and all around the yard, vegetables are popping up through the soil. "Beans grow fast," said Linda Graeper, looking over the plants. "The spinach looks good." Each week, Graeper, a master gardener, comes into this medium security facility to help a team of young offenders care for the crops. "They do the day-to-day stuff," she said. What she does -- "Mostly mentoring. You noticed they had a lot of questions."



The Wisconsin Department of Corrections didn't let us ask the men on the crew any questions, but we got to watch as they grilled Graeper - eager to learn about growing. "Some of them have never gardened before. I'm hoping that this is something they are learning, and they understand the concept of how good it is to be a gardener," she explained.

"They said that they feel like they're back in nature," Grymkoski added. Grymkoski selected the team of eight who tends to the garden. "If they show an interest, and they're excited, that's what I look for," he said. The young men, between 18 and 24, are serving time for a variety of reasons. "There's a plethora of different offenses, it could be from violent crimes to theft and drugs," he said.

But what Graeper sees are eager learners. "Ok, next garden," she said as they walked through the yard. She wants them to take the skills they gain here with them when they leave. "If they want to get into landscaping or work at a nursery, they really would have an advantage because they have this background," she said.

The Youthful Offender Correctional Facility partners job training with other education. "They basically go to school, they're basically -- they get their GED and then there's college courses," Grymkoski said. Giving the young men space to grow, too. "Hopefully, you know, I'm just encouraging them to do something that they should enjoy," Graeper said.

The fresh vegetables from these gardens will all go inside to the facility's kitchen. "Cabbage, peas, carrots, onions, beans, green beans," Grymkoski said. "And they are like, 'Hey, I grew that,' so, they take ownership."

The volunteer-led program started in 2019, and like the gardens, has bloomed since then. "When I said earlier to them that this was the best garden ever and they were the best group, I was sincerely truthful," Graeper said.

For Graeper-- who also volunteers her gardening skills with the Racine County Food Bank and Garden of Giving-- it's a chance to share her passion. "I grew up on a farm. And my mother always had a huge garden. I guess that's kind of where it started, and it just kind of stayed with me," she explained. Planting her knowledge where she can see it grow. "They really enjoy it, and as you can see, they're awesome," Grymkoski said with pride. Hopefully I'm doing something good for the Racine community. Gardening is my thing," Graeper said.

EVENTS in 2023

Please submit your events to halirenee@yahoo.com or news@wimga.org to be posted on the WIMGA website and in the next newsletter. Newsletter submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter.



2023 Annual Garden Tour

Sponsored by the Sauk County Master Gardeners Association

July 22, 2023 9:00am – 4:00pm

For only \$10, this tour features 8 private and 2 public gardens in the Reedsburg/LaValle area featuring herbs, hostas, perennials, vegetables, raised beds, water gardens, and urban plantings. Gardens will demonstrate succession planting, small garden spaces, a child-friendly garden, a

Victory Garden, an experimental tomato plot, and more. Gather innovative ideas, interact with garden hosts, attend garden demonstrations, pick up fresh veggies from our produce stands, and purchase a copy of Sauk County Gardener by former Sauk County horticulturist, Phyllis Both.

Advance Tickets: \$10 - Purchase at the either Reedsburg's or Baraboo's Chamber of Commerce or complete and return the ticket form: <https://shorturl.at/ftvyS>

Day of Event Tickets: \$15 - Purchase at Harvest Park Garden —265 Railroad St, Reedsburg. Present your ticket/tour map as you visit each garden.

Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1286193645318749>

Mineral Point Garden Tour

Saturday, July 22, 2023, 10:00am-4:00pm.

Sponsored by the Mineral Point Historical Society

See mineralpointhistory.org for more information



21st Annual North Central Wisconsin Master Gardener Association's Garden Walk

Friday, July 28, 1-7 pm & Saturday, July 29, 9 am-3 pm
More information at [NCWMGA Garden Walk](#)

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 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.



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/>.

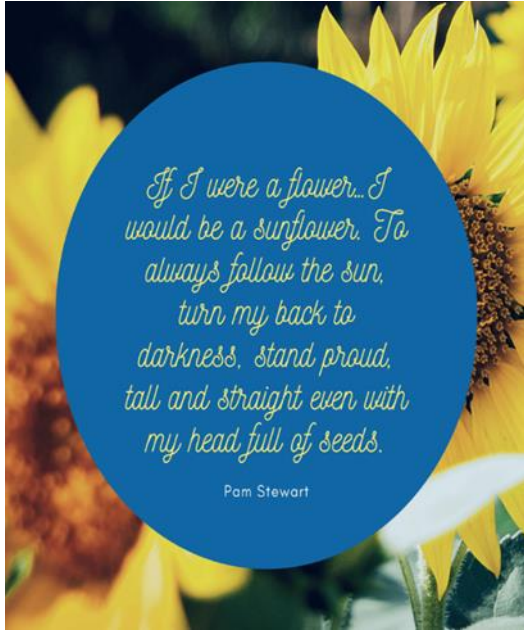
Diseases of Herbaceous Ornamentals July 26, 2023. 6:30 – 8:30pm

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.



SUNFLOWERS, What A Beautiful Flower!

Article and photos by: Donna Mae Stohlmann,
St Croix Valley MGV

Last newsletter I told you about my least favorite WEED, the DANDELION, but this time I will tell you about my favorite flower, the beautiful SUNFLOWER!!

Sunflowers aren't just beautiful flowers, they're useful plants that have been used for healing, food, and oil for thousands of years. Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.) is one of the few crop species that originated in North America (most originated in the fertile crescent, Asia or South and Central America). It was probably a "camp follower" of several of the western native

American tribes who domesticated the crop and then carried it eastward and southward of North America.

The first Europeans observed sunflower cultivated in many places from southern Canada to Mexico. Sunflower was probably first introduced to Europe through Spain and spread through Europe as a curiosity until it reached Russia where it was readily adapted. Selection for high oil in Russia began in 1860 and was largely responsible for increasing oil content from 28% to almost 50%. The high-oil lines from Russia were reintroduced into the U.S. after World War II, which rekindled interest in the crop.



However, it was the discovery of the male-sterile and restorer gene system that made hybrids feasible and increased commercial interest in the crop. Production of sunflowers subsequently rose dramatically in the Great Plains states as marketers found new niches for the seeds as an oil crop, a birdseed crop, and as a human snack food. Production in these regions in the 1980s declined mostly because of low prices, but also due to disease, insect, and bird problems. Sunflower acreage is now

moving westward into dryer regions; however, 85% of the North American sunflower seed is still produced in North and South Dakota and Minnesota.

Departments of Agronomy and Soil Science, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI 53706.



FUN SUNFLOWER FACTS

THEY'RE NATIVE TO AMERICAS. They were cultivated in North America as far back as 3000 BCE, when they were developed for food, medicine, dye, and oil. They were exported to the rest of the world by Spanish conquistadors around 1500.



THEY WERE BROUGHT TO RUSSIA BY ROYALTY. Tsar Peter the Great was so fascinated by the sunny flowers he saw in the Netherlands that he took some back to Russia. They became popular when people discovered that sunflower seed oil was not banned during Lent, unlike the other oils the Russian Orthodox Church banned its patrons from consuming. By the 19th century, the country was planting two million acres of sunflowers every year.

THEIR POPULARITY STANDS THE TEST OF TIME. Russian immigrants to the United States in the 19th century brought back highly developed sunflower seeds that grew bigger blooms and sparked a renewed interest in the Native American plant. Later, American sunflower production exploded when Missouri farmers began producing sunflower oil in 1946.

THEY TRACK THE SUN. Sunflowers plants display a behavior called heliotropism. The flower buds and young blossoms will face east in the morning and follow the sun as the earth moves during the day.



THE WORLD'S TALLEST SUNFLOWER REACHED 30' 1". In the summer of 2014, Veteran Hans-Peter Schiffer toppled the Guinness World Record for a 3rd year in a row.

THEY HAVE A HISTORY OF HEALING. In Mexico, the flowers were thought to sooth chest pain. Several Native American tribes agreed with the plant's curing properties. The Cherokee utilized an infusion of sunflower leaves to treat kidneys while the Dakota brought it out to sooth chest pain and pulmonary troubles.

THEY TRAVELED TO SPACE. In 2012, U.S. astronaut Don Pettit brought along a few companions to the International Space Station: sunflower seeds. Petit regularly blogged about his budding friendship and shared photos of the gardening process.



THEY ARE ACTUALLY THOUSANDS OF TINY FLOWERS. Each sunflower's head is made of smaller flowers. The petals we see around the outside are called ray florets, and they cannot reproduce. But the disc florets in the middle, where the seeds develop, have both male and female sex organs, and each produce a seed. They can self-pollinate or take pollen blown by the wind or transported by insects.

THEY CAN BE USED AS SCRUBBING PADS. Once the flower heads are empty of seeds, they can be converted into disposable scrubbing pads for jobs too tough for your cleaning tool.

<https://kids.britannica.com>



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

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

July 2023 Newsletter

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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. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.