

WIMGA



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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

Grant County Uses 2017 WIMGA Grant for Second Driftless Garden Conference April 22, 2017

Terry Wood, Grant County MG

We had 45 paid registrants, 5 student helpers, and 3 speakers who attended sessions. Judging from the twenty-three surveys returned it was an educational success. Attendees remarked how beautiful and informative our displays were, a reflection of how talented our MGs are!



Blueberries by Nancy Ashmore MG



Display by Karin Peacock MG



Garden Mosaic by Connie Larson MG



Dr. David Zlesak

Dr. John Ramos Zahina treated attendees to a keynote speaker address on the sustainability of land and food growth gearing it to the Platteville and Driftless Area. Dr. David Zlesak from UW-River Falls shared his wealth of knowledge about rose development and diseases. He spoke about varieties he developed over his years of research. Diane Whealy from Seed Savers shared her philosophy of growing vegetables amidst the flowers and shared slides of the gardens at Seed Savers. We were able to secure these top-notch speakers with the grant we received from the WIMGA. The UW-Platteville Horticulture club presented on HYDROPONICS and helped with set up.

Buckets of Knowledge

Deana Hirte, Waupaca County MGV

Waupaca Master Gardeners, Susan Morack and Deana Hirte, continued their gardening learning experiences by attending a Basic Gardening course through the month of March 2017. The class was offered through FVTC in Waupaca and taught by Jim Beard.

Pictured are the ladies building their own Bucket Tables or Grandma's Garden Table as Jim referred to it - Grandma's Garden Table allows the gardener to avoid having to bend or stoop to garden.

The tables were constructed using unfinished, untreated plywood and cedar wood. Legs were installed using the friction method, allowing for easy disassemble for storage. The table pictured measures 2x4 and 3' tall.

Additionally, bucket prep was discussed. Layering the buckets with fabric, pea gravel compost and soil was done at home. Participants were also instructed to paint their tables at home. The shopping list for the tables included 1 - $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood 2x4; 3 10ft 1x4 cedar (for skirting) and 1 or 2 (depending on desired height) 8 ft. 2x2

any wood for legs. Participants were given the choice of building a raised bed, straw bale garden cage or the bucket table.

The course introduced watering systems, seed stratification, container gardening and compost tea, among many other topics. Quality literature and credible seed sources were reviewed and a lot of knowledge and fun was shared by the entire class.

Jim spoke of his book, "Growing People" and recommended books such as, "Crops in Pots" by Bob Purnell, "Garden Rescue: First Aid for Plants and Flowers" by Jo Wittingham and the Home Gardeners series by David Squire. Seed catalog recommendations were also spoke of and shared by class participants. Some of these included "The Whole Seed Catalog" found at rareseeds.com and Territorial Seed Co.

Waupaca Master Gardeners meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at the county courthouse and during warmer weather, off site at member's gardens or local greenhouses.



A Shout-Out Reminder to All Wisconsin Master Gardeners!

Cindy Helt, Conference Committee & Washington County MGV

As we are elbow deep in our garden work (fun, yes?), keep in mind the dates for the upcoming Annual Conference. This year it takes place at the West Bend Mutual Insurance Prairie Center (in West Bend), which is located on many acres of natural prairie land. The dates are October 13 and 14, a Friday evening and a Saturday.

There are two featured speakers for Friday night: Susan Carpenter, of UW Madison – Arboretum, will speak on prairie gardens and landscapes. Edgar and Martine Anders, proprietors of Fragrant Isle lavender farm, will discuss the joys and difficulties of growing lavender in Wisconsin.

Saturday will have breakout sessions where registrants can choose one of several presenters for each session.

For more details check out the website wcmastergardeners.com, or Facebook Wisconsin Master Gardener Conference 2017.

Brochure can be found on pages 6 & 7

Native Seed “Bombs”

Lynn M. Adams, Five Range MGV

Five Range Master Gardener Volunteers of Gogebic County MI and Iron County WI assisted the Ironwood, MI School District’s three second grade classes, consisting of 60 students, in making native seed "bombs" with perennial native flower seeds harvested in the Ottawa National Forest of Gogebic County, MI. Early this spring, a botanist at Ottawa stratified the seeds in moist sand in her refrigerator, mimicking winter.



The students were given a little lesson on pollinators, why native plants were used in the project and where shown pictures of the native flowers that were in the seed mix. A native plant is one that was here before the early settlers arrived. Native plants are better for our environment for they use less water and they don't need fertilizer. Pollinators really need and like native plants. Monarchs need milkweed and that is in the mix.

The Range Master Gardener Volunteers assisted the second graders by mixing up the powdered clay, compost, water and seeds. At the end of May, the second graders split up into three groups and "bombed" the Iron Belle Trail that will connect to lower Michigan. Rain will break down the seed "Bombs" and the seeds will germinate.

We did another project with the Hurley, WI School District's 40 second graders. They "Bombed" the perimeter of their school's property



Recipe: One Batch

5 cups powdered clay (Bentonite was used)

3 cups compost

1/2 cup to 1 cup native seeds

Mix together in a pail and keep adding water till the mixture can be formed into one inch balls. We put each batch in a disposable heavy aluminum roasting pan. Five children worked from each pan.

Place balls in boxes lined with waxed paper.

Store in a cool, dry place until ready to use.

We made 12 batches for the sixty students and it made 1000 bombs.



Note: buy disposable rubber gloves for the students.

The hum of bees is the voice of the garden.
~Elizabeth Lawrence



Educational Gardens

Carol Shirk, Dodge County MGV



In 2013 The Dodge County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) transformed a bare patch of grass into a display garden on the east side of the Administration Building 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau. (This garden is in front of the UW-Extension Office.) DCMGA designed and planted the garden and to help viewers learn what the plants are, each one is identified with a plant marker. In addition, there is a photo, complete description of each plant,

the growing conditions and care needed on the Master Gardener section of the Dodge County UW-Extension website: <http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/>. The garden was made possible through contributions from Dodge County Highway Department, Dodge County Maintenance Department and County Administration, Bennett's Nursery, Borden's Green Acres, Village Flower Shoppe, and many Master Gardener Volunteer's home gardens. This is an ongoing project as DCMGA periodically changes the plants for the enjoyment of the viewers.

Phase 2 of the garden was completed in 2014 with the addition of a beautiful display of perennials along the sidewalk to enhance the west entrance of the building. This display complements the full garden on the east side of the building. In addition, DCMGA built and installed a "Little Free Library" in the east garden. This library is stocked with garden books for adults and children alike. It is situated conveniently near a

bench where patrons can sit and read while enjoying the beauty of the gardens. People are encouraged to take a book, read it, and return it.

In addition, in 2014 DCMGA installed a display garden at the Highway Department Building, 211 E. Center Street, turning a weed infested patch of gravel into a thing of beauty. This garden is across the street from the Administration garden, but has entirely different conditions. It's a drought resistant, native plant garden in a hot environment. It gives patrons an entirely different learning experience. Plant makers are included with this garden as well as a site to learn about the individual plants: <http://dodge.uwex.edu/files/2010/06/Highway-Department-Building-Landscaping.pdf>



In 2014 Dodge County began the Ask a Master Gardener Help Line. Residents can call or bring in questions pertaining to plants, vegetables, fruits, insects, soil, flowers, turf, trees, and general gardening. The display gardens are often referenced as residents bring in questions about their own landscapes and the plants are similar to what are in the gardens.

In 2015, a Youth Master Gardener class began in Juneau. These students actively work in these gardens. They learn about weed identification, plant propagation, pruning, insect management, benefits of mulch, deadheading, and many more valuable lessons.

These display gardens have given DCMGA multiple opportunities to provide educational opportunities for the residents of Dodge County. And, it transformed bare, boring areas into feasts for the eyes.

Send your articles on projects or accomplishments to the WIMGA Newsletter Committee Chair:
Lynn Caine, dljed@charter.net.

Garden Walks

North Central WI Master Gardener's 16th Annual Garden Walk in the Wausau Area.

This year's walk features 5 beautiful gardens in Rib Mountain, and the MG's Native WI Wildlife Garden at Rib Mountain State Park.

May purchase tickets at any of the gardens. See our FB page: Northcentral WI Master Gardeners.

Date: July 7, from 1-7pm and July 8 from 9am-3pm

Cost: \$10 Contact: Alice Davies, 715-571-4757 or awdavies@aol.com

21st Annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk

The Sheboygan Area Garden Walk Committee, made up of representatives from the Ivy League, Lake Shore and Town & Country Garden Clubs, and the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers, plans and conducts the annual Walk with the support of their home groups

Rain or Shine. Please no children under 10, no strollers & no pets

Date: July 8th, 2017 Time: 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Cost: \$10 Contact: Susan M Steinpreis, 920-451-6096 or gardengalsue@charter.net

18th Annual Garden Walk

Featuring 6 gardens in Wisconsin Rapids area. In addition to the gardens, we offer a chef demonstration, artists displaying their art in the gardens and the Art in the Garden Boutique. Admission \$10. Tickets available from Wood Co Extension Office, Master Gardener Volunteers and other area businesses or at the gardens on the day of the walk

Date: July 8th, 2017 Time: 9:30am - 3:30pm

Cost: \$10 Contact: Barb Herreid, 715-325-2075, or bherreid@wctc.net

Rio Garden Tour

Tour seven gardens in the village of Rio and surrounding countryside to benefit the Rio Community Library. Included are the library garden and two others in town plus four gardens in the country. Our gardens range greatly in size and style and include some innovative gardening techniques. As a "bonus", the Rio Historical Society is offering tours of the local cemetery with an emphasis on some of the unique headstones.

Date: July 14th - 15th, 2017

Cost: \$8.00 Contact: Jenna Assmus, 920-992-3206, or questions@riolibrary.org

8th Annual Garden Walk.

Self-guided tour sponsored by Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association. Features local public and private gardens. See website www.marquette.uwex.edu for complete details. Adults \$10 in advance/ \$12 day of event. Children 7-11 years \$5, 6 and under Free

Date: July 15th, 2017 Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Cost: \$10 Advance, \$12 Day of Event, Children 7-11 \$5, 6 and under Free

Contact: Mary Marquis 715-757-3031, or maryjmarquis@gmail.com

Manitowoc County Garden Walk

Tour 7 gardens throughout the city of Manitowoc. Rain or Shine!

Date: July 15th, 2017 Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Cost: \$10 Contact: Linda Gratz 920-682-8373, or mtwctymg@gmail.com

For more information on the garden walks and other events go to the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program website at: <http://wimastergardener.org/events/>

LOCATION

The Prairie Center
West Bend Mutual Insurance Company
1900 South 18th Avenue
West Bend, WI 53095

A block of rooms is reserved at the Hampton Inn & Suites (1975 South 18th Avenue West Bend). King bed rate is \$129. Two queen beds is \$109. Reserve by September 14, 2017 and mention the UW-Extension WI Master Gardener Association to get these rates. Call 262-438-1500 to book your room.

REGISTRATION

Full conference registration is \$115 (Friday dinner not included). Friday Only is \$30 with an optional dinner fee of \$14. Saturday Only is \$90 which includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Please register by mailing the enclosed registration form and payment.



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Edgar and Martine Anderson—
Edgar and Martine are the proprietors of Fragrant Isle, the Midwest's largest lavender farm. Their presentation will include the joys and challenges of growing lavender in Wisconsin; controlling disease and pests; and harvesting, processing, and distilling lavender.

Susan Carpenter—
Wisconsin prairies provide inspiration and a diverse native plant palette for our gardens and landscapes. As the outreach specialist at the UW-Arboretum, Susan will highlight versatile, sustainable, and beautiful prairie gardens. She will also cover practical tips for creating and maintaining appropriate plantings in these sunny spaces.

Vendors and a silent auction will also be available throughout the conference.

For more information...

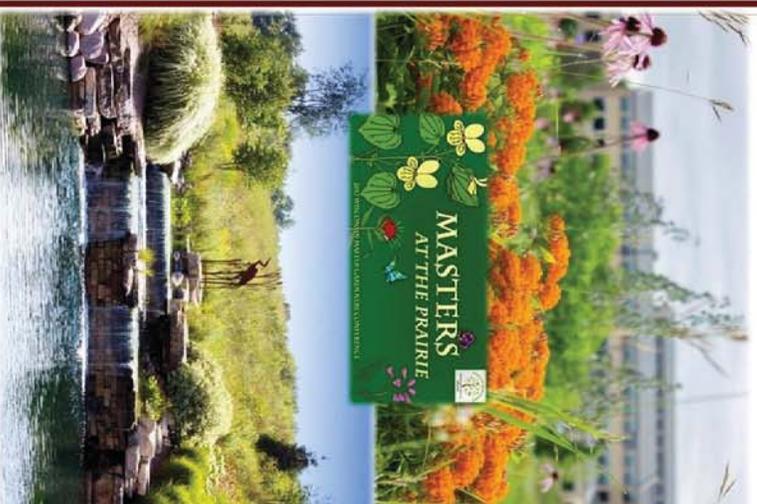
www.wcmastergardeners.com

Find us on Facebook: WIMGA Conference
"Masters at the Prairie"

- OR -

Vicky Hopp, Board President
Washington County Master Gardener
Association
(262) 707-1970
hoppvicky@att.net

2017 WIMGA Annual Conference



October 13 & 14, 2017

Hosted by the Washington County
Master Gardener Association

2017 WIMGA Annual Conference—Registration

County/Association _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

Saturday Sessions: Please rank session choices

Session 1: _____ Track 1 _____ Track 2 _____ Track 3 _____
 Session 2: _____ Track 1 _____ Track 2 _____ Track 3 _____
 Session 3: _____ Track 1 _____ Track 2 _____ Track 3 _____
 Session 4: _____ Track 1 _____ Track 2 _____ Track 3 _____
 Session 5: _____ Track 1 _____ Track 2 _____ Track 3 _____

Friday Dinner (optional): Please indicate sandwich choice

Hamburger Brat Portobello mushroom

	Cost per Person	#	Total
Both Days— October 13 & 14 (Dinner not included)	\$115	X	=
Optional Dinner— October 13	\$14	X	=
Friday Only— October 13	\$30	X	=
Saturday Only— October 14	\$90	X	=
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

Payment Options

Check—Payable to WIMGA

Payment must accompany registration.

Registration deadline is August 30.

****Walk-in registration will not be allowed. Registration opened to the general public September 1.****

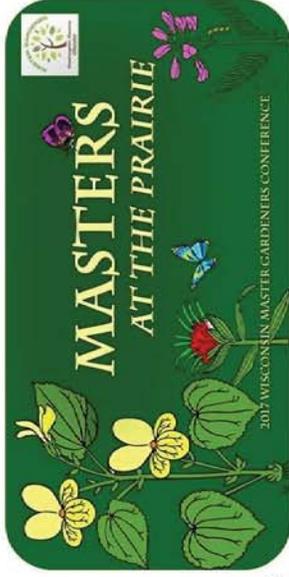
Mail Registration Form and Payment to:

Byron Hacker, WIMGA Treasurer
 N4511 Hwy 57
 Chilton, WI 53014

Conference Agenda

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 4:00 pm Registration and Picnic Buffet (optional)
 5:00 pm Welcome and Introductions
 - Vicky Hopp, WCMGA Board President & Ryan Amerling, WB Mutual & MGV
 5:10 pm WIMGA Annual Meeting
 5:45 pm Break
 6:00 pm Inspiring Prairie Gardens and Landscapes
 - Susan Carpenter, UW—Arboretum
 7:00 pm Break
 7:15 pm Growing Lavender in Wisconsin
 - Edgar & Martine Anderson, Owners of Fragrant Isle Lavender Farm & Shop



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3
8:00 am Registration & Breakfast			
8:45 am Session 1	Gardening for Pollinators Zannah Crowe	Deer 'Resistant' Landscapes Carrie Hennessy	Everyday Herbs for Brain Health Amy Mae Miller
9:55 am Session 2	Succulents: Easy to Grow Rob Charlier Anglim	The Beauty of Hostas Rob Zimmer	Growing Sweet Potatoes and Garlic in Wisconsin Noel Valdes
11:05 am Session 3	Brown is a Color, Too Ben Futa	Facebook for MGVs Mike Maddox	Mushroom Gardening and Forest Farming Laura Kahles
12:00 pm Lunch	Opportunity to visit vendors and bid at the silent auction.		
1:00 pm Session 4	Permaculture: A Toolbox of Design Techniques Bryce Ruddock	Creating Lasting Memories with a Photo Rob Zimmer	Extension of the Growing Season: Vegetables Dr. Julie Dawson
2:10 pm Session 5	No Till/Low Till Garden Soil and Cover Crops Jamie Patton	Gardening for Hummingbirds Kathi and Michael Rock	Winter Gardening: Microgreens Steph Plaster

There will be 15 minute breaks between each session. Silent auction closes at 2:30 pm Saturday. Please visit our website to view a more detailed description for each topic and a list of our vendors.

We hope to see you there!



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

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

Visit the WIMGA Website at

<http://www.wimqa.org/>

