

WIMGA



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Serving its members since 1992

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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.

WE GROW Educational Garden

Educational Grant Award - \$450

The WE GROW garden was established in 2011 to teach the After-School Club students about gardening. We created a list of long-term goals that we wanted to achieve and one of them was to encourage more of the teachers and classes at West Elementary to utilize the school garden as part of their curriculum.

The fourth grade Science teacher had approached us looking for help in providing instruction to the two fourth grade classes on how to use the school garden as a classroom. The purchase of Growing in the Garden: K-3 Curriculum and Growing in the Garden: Local Foods and Healthy Living Curriculum, Grades 4-12 has provided a much needed source for curriculum and has provided lessons that align with the current curriculum being taught.

The master gardener volunteers assisted in the instruction during the first week of the month, on a Tuesday and Thursday, for an hour. There were approximately 45 fourth grade students that were participating and learning more about gardening and nutrition.

There are three signs that we were able to create with the grant money. One welcomes the visitors to the garden and gives some ground rules as to what they can do and discover in the garden. The second sign introduces the Discovery Nook and provides guidance as to how to use the materials that are found inside. The third sign explains what the Three Native American Sisters garden is and how the plants interact

Submitted by Jefferson County Master Gardener Volunteers

Interpretive Sign Grant Award

Educational Grant Award - \$250

Twenty years ago, the Door County Master Gardeners, along with the UW-Madison Peninsular Agricultural Research Station, embarked on the design and development of a free demonstration garden on the grounds of the Research Station. The result was a one-acre garden called The Garden Door.

In 2016, we began an effort to increase the educational offerings in The Garden Door. The plan included three components:

1. We began offering Tuesday in The Garden Door on the second Tuesday from June – September. Each night, three short (20-minute) presentations done by Master Gardener Volunteers or trained professionals are given in The Garden Door. When appropriate, areas of The Garden Door were used in the presentations.

2. Plant lists, with cultural information, from each garden area of The Garden Door were compiled and posted on our website. Signs with the website address and a QR code are posted throughout the garden allowing visitors to directly access this information from their smartphones or tablets.

3. The installation of an interpretive sign in the garden that will address a different theme each year. This year's theme was Pollinators in the Garden. Grant funds were requested to pay for the stand on which this sign would be mounted. Our association

will pay the balance of the cost of the stand not covered by the \$250 grant as well as the cost for producing the sign. In addition to the sign, a webpage has been designed for our website that offers additional information and links related to the theme.

Overall, our educational plan has proven a success. So far this summer, we are averaging about 30 participants at Tuesday in The Garden Door, which is about what we would like. The webpage that takes visitors to the plant lists has been the third most popular page on our website. We have no doubt that the interpretive sign will prove equally helpful and educational to visitors in The Garden Door.

Submitted by the Door County Master Gardener Volunteers



*I know a little garden close
Set thick with lily and red rose
Where I would wander if I might
From dewy morn to dewy night.
A Garden by the Sea by William Morris*

Green Bay Botanical Garden Names Gardener of the Year



On November 9, 2017 the Green Bay Botanical Garden awarded an Outagamie County Master Gardener, Don Brill, as Volunteer of the Year. Quoting their GBBG Winter 2017-18 Newsletter: "Don Brill is one of our extraordinary adult docents. His enthusiasm and impressive knowledge of the plants and stories that make the garden a community treasure leave guests amazed and wanting more. We can always count on him to lead tours for all varieties of groups, often times for multiple tours in one day. He also shares his travels with us and our community in our winter Travelogue series."

Autumn at the River

The 2018 WIMGA conference will be held at the Lismore Hotel & Conference Center in downtown Eau Claire at the confluence of the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers on September 21-22, 2018. The Autumn at the River Master Gardener Volunteer Conference is open to the public as well as to Master Gardener Volunteers.



A variety of speakers and programs will be featured throughout the weekend. Friday's keynote address will begin at 6:45 p.m. after dinner. Our speaker, Mark Dwyer will start us out with a presentation of "Woody Plants for Fantastic Foliage". Dwyer is the Director of

Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin. With an educational background in landscape architecture and urban forestry, Dwyer enjoys being involved with this wonderful botanical resource.



On Saturday, our keynote speaker, Ben Futa, will provide "Principals of Planting Design with Perennials". As Executive Director of Allen Centennial Gardens at UW-Madison, Futa is passionate for connecting people to plants and one another, through public gar-

dens. With a background in landscape architecture and sustainability studies from Purdue University and Indiana University South Bend, Ben directs the operations of the Garden and its programs.

An assortment of break-out sessions are planned to interest gardeners of all backgrounds. Brian Hudelson will talk on the "History of Plant Diseases" and also the "Basics of Disease Management". Jerry Clark of Chippewa County Extension will discuss "Home Berry Production". Tim Fehr, a member of the American Hemerocallis Society and a daylily hybridizer will present "Emerging Trends in Daylilies" and Mark Dwyer will discuss "Incorporating Bulbs into your Garden."

For the vegetable gardener, we will feature Kristina Beuning on "Sustainable Vegetable Gardening".



Beuning has owned and operated an organic fruit and vegetable farm in Eau Claire since 2003 and her farm will be featured on one of the tours. She holds a MS in teaching biology and a PhD in plant ecology.

Other topics include "Preserving and Drying Herbs", "The Basics of Mycology and the Fun of Mushroom Hunting", "Tips on Photographing your Garden" and "GMOs: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly". For Master Gardeners wanting to improve their educational skills, Diana Alfuth, Pierce County Extension, will talk about "Hooking Kids and Reeling Them into Gardening".

For more information on the 2018 Master Gardener Conference, checkout our website: <https://www.wimgaconferences.com/> or our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WIMGA.2018.conference/>

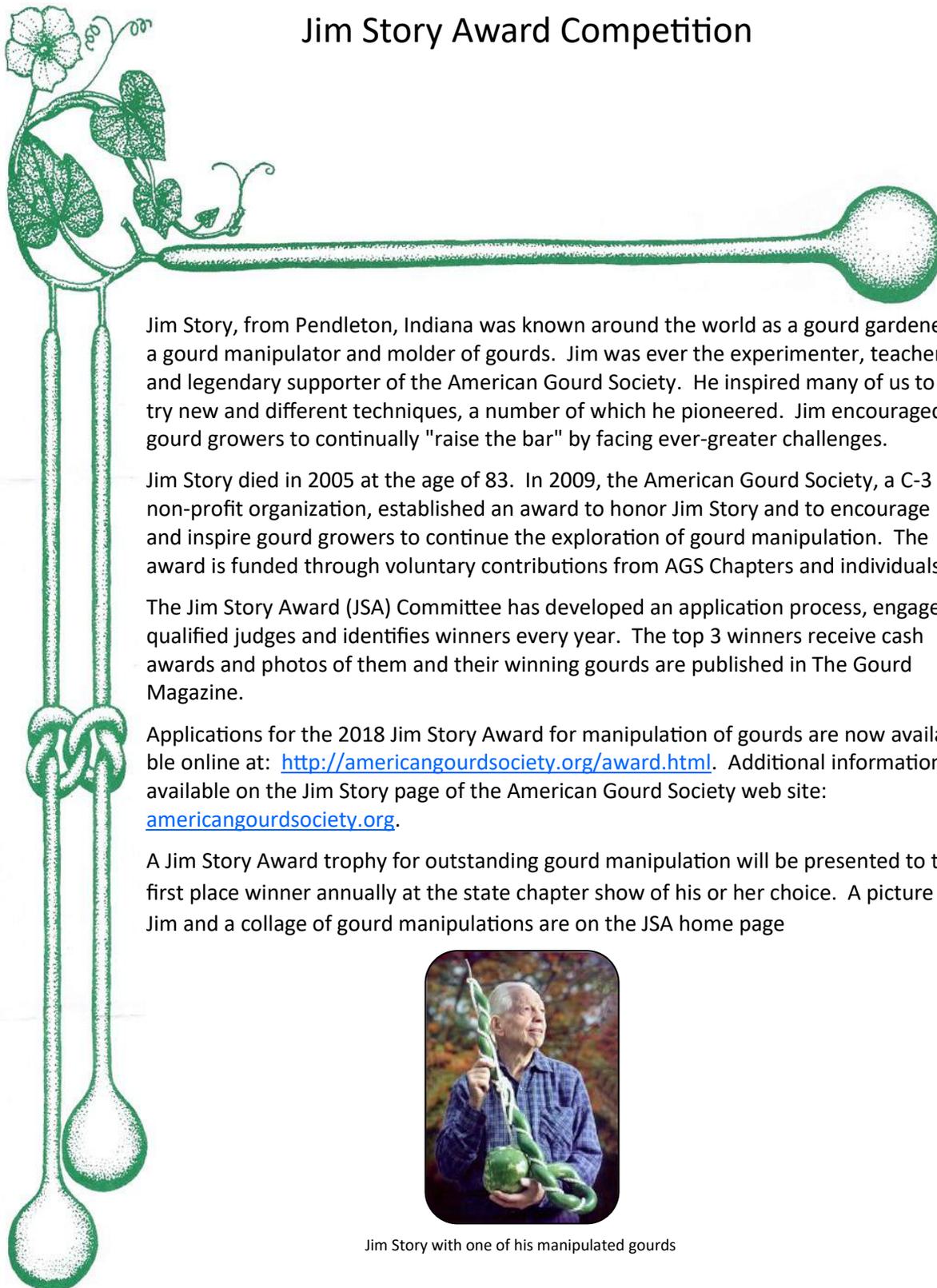
**WIMGA
2018
Eau Claire**

**AUTUMN AT
THE RIVER**

Sept. 21-22, 2018. Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Conference, Eau Claire, WI

WIMGA - Wisconsin Master Gardener Association
Conference at The Lismore Hotel in Eau Claire
www.WIMGAconference.com

Jim Story Award Competition



Jim Story, from Pendleton, Indiana was known around the world as a gourd gardener, a gourd manipulator and molder of gourds. Jim was ever the experimenter, teacher, and legendary supporter of the American Gourd Society. He inspired many of us to try new and different techniques, a number of which he pioneered. Jim encouraged gourd growers to continually "raise the bar" by facing ever-greater challenges.

Jim Story died in 2005 at the age of 83. In 2009, the American Gourd Society, a C-3 non-profit organization, established an award to honor Jim Story and to encourage and inspire gourd growers to continue the exploration of gourd manipulation. The award is funded through voluntary contributions from AGS Chapters and individuals.

The Jim Story Award (JSA) Committee has developed an application process, engages qualified judges and identifies winners every year. The top 3 winners receive cash awards and photos of them and their winning gourds are published in The Gourd Magazine.

Applications for the 2018 Jim Story Award for manipulation of gourds are now available online at: <http://americangourdsociety.org/award.html>. Additional information is available on the Jim Story page of the American Gourd Society web site: americangourdsociety.org.

A Jim Story Award trophy for outstanding gourd manipulation will be presented to the first place winner annually at the state chapter show of his or her choice. A picture of Jim and a collage of gourd manipulations are on the JSA home page



Jim Story with one of his manipulated gourds

Send your articles on projects or accomplishments to WIMGA Newsletter Committee Chair, Hali Dessecker at halirenee@yahoo.com

2018 Plant of the Year® - *Allium* 'Millenium'

Allium 'Millenium', the butterfly magnet, was selected by the PPA membership as the 2018 Plant of the Year



Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 or 4 to 9

Light: *Allium* 'Millenium' grows best in full sun. In very hot climates partial shade may be best.

Soil: Grows best in well-drained soils.

Uses: *Allium* 'Millenium' is a perfect selection for full-sun gardens where its sleek structure can complement many other growth habits. Cut flowers retain a blush of their summer color.

Unique Qualities: *Allium* 'Millenium' is a butterfly magnet. The plant is interesting through multiple seasons for both foliage and large, gorgeous blooms. Reseeding is much less a problem than in other alliums.

Maintenance: *Allium* 'Millenium' is subject to no serious insect or disease problems. Deer and rabbits usually avoid 'Millenium'.

The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title Perennial Plant of the Year® 2018

to *Allium* 'Millenium'. This herbaceous perennial, relative to the common onion, is a workhorse of the late summer garden. Bred by Mark McDonough, horticulture researcher from Massachusetts, 'Millenium' was introduced through Plant Delights Nursery in 2000 where it has proven itself year after year earning rave reviews. 'Millenium' is spelled with one "n", as registered, but is occasionally incorrectly listed with two "n"s. This cultivar is the result of a multigenerational breeding program involving *Allium nutans* and *A. lusitanicum* (formerly *Allium senescens* ssp *montanum*),

selected for late flowering with masses of rose-purple blooms, uniform habit with neat shiny green foliage that remains attractive season long, and for its drought resistant constitution.

The genus *Allium* contains more than 900 species in the northern hemisphere, but is perhaps best known for a dozen or so species of culinary vegetables and herbs: onion, garlic, leeks, shallots, scallions, and chives. The genus is also known for a few dozen ornamentals that grow from bulbs and sport tall stems with big globe-shaped blooms in spring. The vast majority of the genus is little known and absent from horticulture, yet possesses significant ornamental potential.

Allium 'Millenium' has numerous virtues to add to the landscape setting. Growing best in full sun, each plant typically produces an upright foliage clump of grass-like, glossy deep green leaves reaching 10-15" tall in spring. In midsummer, two to three flower scapes rise above the foliage with each scape producing two or three showy two-inch spherical umbels of rose-purple florets that last as long as four weeks. The flower umbels are completely round (spherical), not domed or hemispherical as they are in some *Allium* species. They dry to a light tan often holding a blush of their former rose-purple color. While other alliums can look scraggly in the heat of the summer, 'Millenium' does not let the heat bother it! Easily grown in zones 4-9 (possibly zone 3) makes it a great perennial in many areas of the country. In very hot summer climates it does appreciate afternoon shade.

No serious pest problems have been reported. Leaf spot may occur in overcrowded growing conditions. Deer and rabbits leave 'Millenium' alone. Alliums are sometimes avoided due to their reseeding behavior. Fortunately, 'Millenium' exhibits 50% reduced seed production, raising less concern for self-sown seedlings.

Allium 'Millenium' has a fibrous root structure forming an ornamental herbaceous clump easily propagated by division. Once in the garden, 'Millenium' can easily be

2018 Plant of the Year® - *Allium* 'Millenium'

lifted and divided in either spring or fall. Cut back foliage in late fall.

Pollinators will flock to *Allium* 'Millenium'! Butterflies and bees will thank you for adding 'Millenium' to your garden. Pair with shorter goldenrods (*Solidago sp.*) such as 'Little Lemon' that reaches one and a half feet tall. Goldenrods are late summer pollinator magnets that will offer beautiful contrasting golden yellow blooms. Another late summer re-blooming companion perennial to consider is *Oenothera fremontii* 'Shimmer' with its low-growing silvery foliage adorned daily with large yellow flowers that open late afternoon and fade to an apricot color by morning. Being tap-rooted this evening primrose is well behaved, not creeping through the garden, for which, rhizomatous spreading evening primroses are famously known. *Allium* 'Millenium' looks great backed with the silver foliage of *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, Russian sage, or the native *Scutellaria incana*, downy skullcap,

with its numerous spikes of blue flowers above trim green foliage. Or simply plant 'Millenium' en masse and enjoy the rose-purple display!

This low-maintenance dependable perennial will not disappoint! Blooming at a time when most of our garden begins to decline in the tired excess of the season, 'Millenium' offers much needed color. It is truly an all-season plant that offers attractive shiny foliage spring through summer and caps off the season with its crown of perfectly round rose-purple flower umbels!

Martha A. Smith, Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois Extension

Mark McDonough, Plant breeder/horticulture researcher, Massachusetts

Perennial Plant Association website:

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

Danger Alert: Rusty Patched Bumble Bees are now ENDANGERED



Photo submitted by Susan Carpenter at UW-Madison Arboretum to www.fws.gov. Using photo with permission from Susan Carpenter

There is something truly amazing about watching a bumble bee at work as they fly around in their search for colorful and vibrant flowers. They make our world much more beautiful and fragrant. We enjoy the fruits of their

labor as they help pollinate our food.

One year ago, the rusty patched bumble bee was listed as endangered -- the first bumble bee to be listed in the Continental United States under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Rusty patched bumble bees are pollinators with an important job: they contribute to our food security and the functioning of our entire ecosystem. Not only are they key to maintaining our ecosystems, but their economic value is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the U.S.

But these bees are endangered -- they've seen an incredibly steep decline in their population over the last 20 years.

From global climate change to intensive farming practices to habitat loss -- there are many factors contributing to the endangerment of this species. **Scientists have also pointed to the increased use of neonicotinoid pesticides, which are highly toxic to bumble bees and all other types of bees, as a major contributing factor to bee die-offs.**

It's absurd to risk the future of the rusty patched bumble bees, and all bees, just to spray more of a pesticide -- especially when there are viable alternatives.

We can all do our part to keep the rusty patched bumble bees around by advocating for a ban on bee-killing pesticides.

Maryland and New Jersey have both taken legislative action to curb the use of these bee-killing pesticides

For more information on the rusty patched bumble bee go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's website at: <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/>

Spring Educational Seminars

March 24, 2018: Day in the Garden hosted by the Fond du Lac Master Gardener Association. This annual event will cover the following topics: Margie Winter presenting “It’s all about the Birds and Bees” (attracting birds, bees and butterflies into your yard); Rob Zimmer on “Creative Container Creations”; Patrice Peltier “As the Worm Turns...Twists...Writhes...and Leaps” (discussion on jumping worms) plus “Less is More in Gardening”; and Kathy Baum “Garden Hints, Tips and Hacks” (garden shortcuts, practical tips, home remedies). Lunch, vendors, silent auction, raffle and door prizes round out the day. The cost for the day is \$40 thru March 1, 2018, \$45 by March 15, 2018. For more information contact Tina Engelhardt at 920-929-3171 or email tina.engelhardt@ces.uwex.edu

March 24, 2018: Let’s Get Green and Growing hosted by Columbia County Master Gardeners. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Rio High School. Keynote speaker is David Wanninger from Boerner Botanic Gardens; breakout sessions, vendors, book/magazine swap; lunch available for purchase. Registration \$10; brochures available after January 26, 2018 from buckhill@centurylink.net

April 7, 2018: Ready, Set, Grow. Grant County MGV Third Annual Garden Conference to be held at Vesperman Farms, 8149 Stage Rd, Lancaster, WI. For registration and conference description: Grantcountymastergardeners@weebly.com. Creative Vegetable Gardening, Landscaping for the Home Garden, Fermentation Fun, Growing Great Garlic. Cost is \$20. Contact Terry Wood at 608-732-4651 or email: Woodfam@centurytel.net

April 7, 2018: Barron County Master Gardeners Spring Expo, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., WITC Conference Center, Rice Lake. Keynote speaker is Debbie Lonnee from Bailey Nurseries in the Twin Cities featuring cold climate gardening. Also presenting will be Crystal Schmidt on rare and unique edibles and Susan Frame on integrated pest management. Cost is \$30 and includes lunch. For more information contact Barron County-UW-Extension, <http://barron.uwex.edu>, or call 715-537-6250

April 20, 2018: Responding to Horticulture Inquiries, Dunn Co. This annual professional development program of the UW-Extension Horticulture Team is intended to acquaint UW-Extension agents, educators, office staff and Master Gardener Volunteers with information on UW-Extension diagnostic services, written and web-based horticulture resources, and UW-Extension personnel who can assist in answering horticulture-related questions. Cost is \$20. Registration information at <https://wimastergardener.org/files/2018/02/2018-RHI-Dunn-schedule.pdf>. Registration deadline: April 13

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul. – Alfred Austin

For more Educational Seminars visit the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program website at www.wimastergardener.org



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March 2018 Newsletter

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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.wimga.org/>

