

WIMGA



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Serving its members since 1992

WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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WIMGA Vision - The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association will be the collective voice for the 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 UW-Extension's educational role to the public.

New Year Announcement

This **January 2019 Newsletter** will be the last “paper” newsletter published by the Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association. It was decided at the November Board Meeting to suspend publishing the newsletter in a paper format. This decision is due to the ongoing changes in our relationship with the Program Office and the cost of mailing paper copies of the newsletter. The Newsletter will continue to be produced six (6) times a year and will focus on accomplishments of Master Gardener Volunteers around the state. The newsletter will be emailed to all Association members and UW-Extension offices for reproduction as needed. In addition, the newsletter will be available on the Members Only tab on the WIMGA website (wimga.org).

Other WIMGA news and announcements will be disseminated through all available media sources, as in emails, postings on the website, through local extension offices and on social media sites. Articles and ideas for the Newsletter may be submitted to our editors, Nancy Jahnel-Barnes at westcoasternancy@gmail.com or Hali Dessecker at halirenee@yahoo.com.

Questions or information to be discussed at WIMGA Board meetings may be sent to our President, Becky Gutzman at buckhill@centurylink.net.

Byron Hacker, Calumet County 4-H Volunteer

Byron Hacker grew up in Calumet County 4-H. He became a volunteer when his children joined and now 29 years later, he is still serving.

Byron is passionate about plant and soil science projects, and has taught workshops at the local, state and national levels, including Fall Forum and the Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference. He has recruited youth to compete at the State 4-H Plant Science Day, with members progressing to national competitions, where he was their chaperone. He is the Wisconsin advisor to the National Junior Horticulture Association and serves on the State Plant and Soil Science Committee.

When asked why he volunteers, Byron replied “somebody has to do it.” He believes that if youth don’t have mentors in areas that interest them, they will lose interest. While judging at a county fair, Byron met a youth passionate about perennials. With encouragement, that youth attend the NJHA convention and was later elected to a national office.

Byron spent his career as a social worker for Calumet County. He has mentored many youth, and made a difference in their lives because he truly cares and wants to see them succeed. That same caring and loving attitude extends to his 4-H work.



A humble person, Byron doesn’t volunteer for the recognition, but in 1998 he received Calumet County 4-H’s Special Leadership recognition award. In 2017 he was Calumet County’s 4-H Lifetime Volunteer. The Calumet County Fair named him Fair Person of the Year in 2016 for his dedication as superintendent.

Article published on the Wisconsin State Farmer website, November 14, 2018. Byron Hacker is our WIMGA State Treasurer and has been an Executive Board Member/Treasurer since the Association’s inception in 1992.



The **Wisconsin Public Television Garden & Landscape Expo** is set for February 8-10, 2019 at the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. Find full event information and a list of advance ticket vendors at wigardenexpo.com. You can also find information about Garden & Landscape Expo's educational offerings.

Editor’s Note: In our November article on the Saint Croix Valley Master Gardener Association Variety Plant Trials submitted by Peg Wastell; we failed to mention that the Trial Ranking Summaries were written by Diana Alfuth, Horticulture Educator.

WIMGA Board Member-At-Large Elections

According to the WIMGA by-laws, 12 of the 15 Directors of the WIMGA Board are selected from the 6 districts from among the local reps in each district. The general membership will elect an additional three members from throughout the state, with terms staggered so that one At-Large position term expires each year. There are 2 candidates for the one open position this year.

The candidate's statements are presented below. Please vote for your choice by **March 22, 2019** by either: Option 1 Detach and mail the paper ballot found on page 5; mailing address on reverse of ballot. Option 2 E-mail your vote (just the name is fine) to President, Becky Gutzman at buckhill@centurylink.net.

Donna Teynor, Crawford County Master Gardener Volunteer

Donna completed her MG Training in 1998 in Grant County. She was on the Board of Directors to get a Master Gardener Association implemented in Crawford County and registered their association in November of 2008. She also is the Crawford County MG training facilitator since 2001 and has encouraged others to volunteer with Level 1 training. Donna has been her association president from 2008 – 2016 and currently serves on their Advisory Board.

In addition, Donna has implemented community educational programming such as the "Lawn Chair Leaning" which will take place in 2019, and the 2017 "Kids in the Garden" program which won the 2017 Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association's Silver Star award for youth programming. She also put into practice a beautification project at the Crawford County Fairgrounds in Gays Mills, and was one of the founding members of the St. Feriole Island Memorial Gardens in 2014, and still a member of their board of directors. Donna also tends several public gardens and flower pots as a MGV.

Diane Thieme, Southeast WI MG Association (SEW)

Diane was a high school educator, department chairwoman and coach, all of which required exacting organizational skills and creative problem solving while working with diverse populations and personalities. After retirement, she completed the Milwaukee Master Gardener training program in 2010. She has remained an active MGV since that time and has accumulated over 3,000 volunteer hours to date. In 2013, she was elected President Elect of Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteers and has served as President.

Diane has served as a co-chair organizer of the SEWVG educational Perennial Plant Sale fundraiser since 2013. The sale consistently nets more than \$40,000 per year, reaches over 1,000 customers and sells 15,000 plants. She, along with other co-chairs, presented at the 2016 Midwest MGV Conference on how to successfully hold a plant sale fundraiser. In 2015, Diane, along with Eloisa Gomez, retired UW Extension Director; Sharon Morrissey, retired UW Extension Horticulture Agent, and a second MGV completed training with the national volunteer certifying agency, Service Enterprise Initiative (SEI) and developed a plan of action to enhance and improve the Master Gardener volunteer experience and community service potential for the SEWVGs.



A Hosta Lover's Dream 2019 Convention

Submitted by Tammy Borden,
Outagamie County Master Gardener

When I bought my first home, it had one variety of hosta that bordered the foundation of the house. With a shady backyard, I eventually began adding garden beds containing other kinds of hosta. When I reached 50 different varieties, I realized my hobby had evolved into a collection. Fast forward and I now have nearly 600 varieties surrounding my yard.

In those early days, I just knew I liked hostas. I never imagined there was such a thing as the American Hosta Society (AHS) — a dedicated group of other hosta enthusiasts from around the country who hold an annual convention. When I discovered the group, my eyes were opened to new aspects about the genus, such as cross-breeding, sun tolerance, tissue cultures, and more.

When I attended my first AHS convention in Indianapolis, I got to meet others who shared a love of what many call the “friendship plant.” Appropriately, I’ve formed many new friendships as a result. I also got to meet many of the hybridizers who bred the plants — some of them pioneers in the hosta industry such as Dick and Jane Ward. I have the hosta named ‘Dick Ward,’ (pictured) and now I think of him each time I walk by.



Other hybridizers included Olga Petryszyn who is known for her hosta of the year for 2017, ‘Brother Stefan.’ I also met Doug Beilstein who strives to breed standout varieties with unusual leaf characteristics such as 2018 hosta of the year, ‘World Cup.’ Now, when I walk around my garden, I feel an even greater connection to many plants because I’ve met those who introduced them into the market... and I feel like I have a connection to them, too.

The AHS national convention is held in a different city each year. It was in Philadelphia in June 2018 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. In 2019, I’m excited to let you know that it’s coming to Green Bay, Wisconsin! If you’re a hosta enthusiast like me, or if you’re just starting to gain an interest, I invite you to join me and several hundred others from across the country and around the world. Here are some details...

American Hosta Society National Convention

June 12–15, 2019 Radisson Hotel & Convention Center, Green Bay, WI

Registration Information: www.ahs2019event.org

The theme for the 2019 convention is Hostaffinity, a reflection of the relationship that we as gardeners share with each other and our beloved plants. Featuring: 11 Stunning Garden Tours – Vendors - Leaf Show and Seedling Competition - Speakers: Rick Goodenough, Don Dean, Olga Petryszyn, Doug Beilstein, and Jeff Miller

The 2018 OCMGA Garden Walk

Submitted by Jill Van Den Eng,
Outagamie County Master Gardener

The 2018 Outagamie County Master Gardener Association Garden Walk featured six different gardens, each with its own personality. Some of the gardens were sunny, others were shady, some were on wooded lots with winding paths and others were city lot transformations. There was a zen garden, a hidden tree house and a tea party inspired by the storybook, "Alice in Wonderland." The weather was hot and sunny, but a cool breeze made it a perfect day to stroll through the gardens in search of inspiration and beauty.

This year's garden walk attracted 225 guests, raising \$1,725. Proceeds were divided, going to the Fox Cities Salvation Army Food Pantry, the Salvation Army Bread of Life Center in Black Creek, and the St. Joseph Food Program. The majority of the proceeds, over \$1,000 donated to the Appleton Seed Library for educational programs.

The seed library, located in the Appleton Public Library, provides the community opportunity to borrow seeds to grow food, learn to save seeds and thus strengthen the local seed diversity.

The OCMGA Garden Walk would not be possible without its volunteers. This year, 32 Master Gardener Volunteers worked the day of the walk, welcoming guests and providing information about the sites. In addition, a handful of MGVs worked behind the scenes for months to plan the event. Thrivent awarded a \$250 Action Team Grant for this year's walk, which was used to pay for printing and part of the cost of memorable stones for the hosts.

While the beautiful gardens took center stage during this one-day event, there were also seven garden art vendors with booths placed near the gardens. The OCMGA also partnered with the Bonsai Society, the Herb Society and Wild Ones. Feedback from these groups has been very positive and they will be invited to participate again next year. The OCMGA plant sale also did well, drawing from a pool of shoppers visiting neighborhood rummage sales.

The 2019 OCMGA Garden Walk is planned for Saturday, June 22, 2019.

Ballot for WIMGA At-Large Board Member 2019

Return this ballot by Wednesday, March 22, 2019

Please Vote for One (1)

- Donna Teynor
- Diane Thieme

2018 WIMGA EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

The WIMGA Finance Committee met on October 13, 2018 to tackle the job of selecting educational grants for 2018. Thirty-eight grant applications totaling \$11,300 were received. \$6,850 was budgeted for 2018 and the Finance Committee decided to use \$1,100 not used in 2017 bringing the total available to \$7,950.

Therefore, 29 grants, totaling \$7,900 were awarded to 22 WIMGA Member Associations. Every Association that applied for grants received at least one grant. No Association received more than two grants. Six (6) - \$100; Ten (10) - \$250; Eleven (11) - \$400 and Two (2) - \$200 grants were awarded.

Barron County:	\$250 - Barron County Fair Expenses \$400 - Spring Garden Expo
Calumet County;	\$100 – Hort. Magazine Subscriptions - Brillion & Chilton Library \$400- Continuing Education Speakers for members & public
Clark County	\$250 - Tri-Fold Display Board
Columbia County	\$100- Micro Farm Supplies - Elementary Schools \$250- Let's Get Green & Growing Seminar Speakers
Crawford County	\$250 - Educational Signs for use at Crawford County Fair \$400 - Kids in the Garden Summer Program - Root Box
Dodge County	\$250- Youth MG Program Supplies
Door County	\$250 - Launch of Seed Savers Library Exchange
Eau Claire County	\$200 - Funding of Brent Heath (Bulb Speaker) March, 2019 in conjunction with Library & Garden Club
Fond du Lac County	\$400 - Raised Beds & Program at two schools
Grant County	\$100- Educational Display at Katie's Garden - Platteville \$400 - Spring Garden Conference
Iowa County	\$400- Develop Butterfly Garden at Shake Rag Alley Center for Arts
Jefferson County	\$250 - Info signs about Invasive Species in Parks
Lafayette County	\$250 - Hort Programs - Argyle Schools - Grade 6 - 12
Marquette County	\$400 - Montello Interactive Nature Trail Supplies
NEW (Northeastern Wisconsin)	\$200 - Funding for Brent Heath (Bulb Speaker) March 2, 2019
North Central WI MG	\$400 - Garden Visions 2019 Conference
North Country MG	\$400 - Kids in the Garden Program
Racine-Kenosha MG	\$400 - Hort Gardens@ Veterans Home - Union Grove
Sauk County	\$400 - Baraboo Library Seed Savers Supplies
Washington County	\$100- Signage for garden projects \$250- West Bend Library Educ Programs
Winnebago County	\$100- Speaker Fees - March 9, 2019 Seminar
Wood County	\$100 - Signage for garden seminars/events \$250 - Tri-Fold Display Board

\$8,850 has been budgeted for Educational Grants in 2019.

Mail this ballot to:
 WIMGA President Becky Gutzman
 W3616 Old B Rd
 Rio, WI 53960

Some pictures of this year's Master Gardeners at work.

At right: Riverside International Friendship Gardens for the winter container decorating project on November 11. It was a cold day but we had our largest group of volunteers for this annual event. <http://Riverside International Friendship Gardens>



Wishing all our Master Gardeners a New Year filled with health happiness, and good gardening weather!



Our team at the Program Office – Amy, Susan and Mike



The 2018 Annual Accomplishment Report features more pictures and the stories of our groups serving others in Horticulture education and beautification.



University of Wisconsin – Extension



Master Gardener Program

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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/>

