

April 2020 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



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April 2020

The Extension Master Gardener Program educates, empowers, and supports volunteers to use University research-based info to extend the Wisconsin idea, making a positive difference in lives and communities.

2017-2020 Officers

President

Shirley Audetat
saudetat@hotmail.com
608-994-2577

Vice President

Wendy Johnson
wendyj18@lagrant.net
608-732-3893

Secretary

Connie Landon
gpahomer@hotmail.com
608-723-4638

Treasurer

Connie Larson
belarson@tds.net
608-725-5570

Important Websites for MGVs:
<http://wimastergardener.org>

[https://
learningstore.extension.wisc.edu](https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu)

[https://www.wpr.org/programs/
garden-talk](https://www.wpr.org/programs/garden-talk)

<https://www.wimga.org/>

[http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/
insectlab/](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/)

<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>

[http://
grantcountymastergardeners.w
eblv.com/online-reporting---
forms--reports.html](http://grantcountymastergardeners.wisc.edu/online-reporting---forms--reports.html)

Present Events – None

Future Events:

Published on **March 20, 2020** by [Mike Maddox](#)

Due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak and guidelines from Wisconsin Department of Health Services, UW-Madison, and federal agencies:

All Master Gardener Program related volunteer projects are

suspended including, but not limited to meetings, bus trips, and plant sales for April and May. This will continue into the foreseeable future until further notice.

- The only exception will be ongoing online educational activities approved by Extension staff.
- There will be modifications to the requirement of reporting a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service this year.
- The situation will continually be assessed and updates will be provided.

I know this is a disappointing situation for many of you. It is a necessary step for the protection of volunteers, staff, and clientele; and we hope to reduce the stress and burden on volunteers and staff as we work remotely. For the latest information on COVID-19, visit the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) and your county health department.

This information, and updates, will be posted at:

<https://wimastergardener.org/2020/03/20/halt-to-master-gardener-program-volunteer-activities/>



Photos from Kathy Kubitz taken in her yard. With her permission, I submitted to WIMGA to use on their web site. Great photos, Kathy! Thanks for sharing. If anyone has a photo or two that want to share of spring time in their garden, I would be happy to share.



Upcoming Events

April – None

May – None

Level 1 Training is being assessed if we are going to complete using Zoom via the web and email. Watch for more details as we continue to develop a plan for the ongoing classes.

Past Events:

At our March 12 meeting, we had an enlightening and interesting program on the ways of hardwood mushroom cultivation by Christopher and Emily Appelman of Stone Hollow Gardens and Shroomery, Dubuque, Iowa. Thanks to this warm friendly family for sharing their knowledge about how to get started with mushroom cultivation. Even daughter Sparrow was such a helper being big sister to her

sister that wanted to explore all what she could while Mom and Dad were presenting.

Thanks Connie Larson for bringing this program to us via your contact with them at the Farmers Market in Dubuque.

Gardening at the Library Series – Feb. 29, Lancaster

Shirley had a great time showing how to start seeds to a group at the Schreiner Memorial Library on Leap Day! Perfect time to share our packets of seeds. You can view more photos [on our web site](#).

[Gardening at the Library with starting seeds](#)



Interesting article in the March 2020 Vibe. Shirley has some to show:

Pineapple sage has been used as both an herb and an ornamental. Most people are attracted to it for the pineapple scent of the leaves when crushed, but it is a good addition to the ornamental garden for its attractive foliage, and if frost holds off until late in the fall, the spectacular red flowers. To learn more about *Salvia elegans* read this article at <https://wimastergardener.org/article/pineapple-sage-salvia-elegans/>



Photos of the Pineapple Sage that Shirley is growing.

From Shirley: "Starters from plants last fall. I just put in water to root. Takes a month, now I have 30+. They smell so good when you run your hand over them. Please read the article from Mike. The hummingbirds loved these plants."





Yikes!! What do you mean, no plant sale! I have 50 plus of these plants in my basement growing area.

This is what you will be missing that Shirley was going to bring to the plant sale.



Prize Winner

Drawing was held at our March 12 meeting with lucky winner being Joanne Reynolds. Melody Bahr donated the prize that she was offering for the conference from her display table. She made the Hypertufa pot with the draped feature and placed a potted plant into her creative colored pot.

March 21, 2020

From The GCMGV President

I hope everyone is doing well, and staying safe.

I am sending this with knowing the meeting is canceled and everyone is concerned about the safety of their family and friends. In my last letter I said I would keep you posted.

Farmers Market: Jenna sent me the information on what the kid's program for each week are. Plus, dates that are the busiest. She will keep us posted, as this too is cancelled.

Busy days are **June 20** for Chalk & Cheese, and **July 25** is the Hometown Craft Fair. If you see a date you would like to work with the kids in August and September, send me the day, and I will compile a schedule. I have included the program in second email.

Conference handouts: These were sent out with registration refunds to everyone who signed up. Natasha suggested this idea as a way to get the information out to others. Amanda had approved this idea and for everyone who attended the last meeting a ½ hour goes towards your hours. Mike will be adjusting the hours due to the cancellation of everyone's events, but every little bit counts. The feedback on the packages have been positive.

Earth Day: The River of Alliance Group, Mark Sethne, has been in touch. He suggested having it at the college. He liked our cookie and coffee idea. Mark was glad to be working with us. Unfortunately, we know how that went, canceled, darn virus.

Plant Sale tags: Just in case there is a turn of events or a plan B. Wendy has possession of the bookmarks.

Signs: The signs and stakes will be distributed when we can. They have been ordered.
If more information comes my way I will keep you posted.

Stay healthy. Go outside , breath some fresh air and thank mother nature for taking our minds off the bad stuff for awhile.

Shirley Audetat GCMGV-President



Shirley was busy stuffing envelopes of handouts and informational materials of our organization for conference day delivery for March 21. Hoping it would make canceling more bearable and a small distraction from the virus issues.

To Everyone,

A big clap of hands from me to each of you. To the spring conference committee; Nancy, Joe, Karin, and Connie L (who showed us you could be on vacation and still put your two cents in). The display women, Connie Larson, Carley, Bev Doll, Nancy, Melody, and Karin. Everyone had an input in this event. That is what I am most proud of, working together. That is what makes an organization run smoothly.

I wish we could have put the conference on because we had another great one this year. Last count from Lori was 50 on Friday before cancellation. I think, or want to believe, we could have had 50 more.

I am taking Natasha's idea of sending the handouts that we were putting into our folders and send them to all who pre-registered. They will include the survey. This will be interesting seeing how many will be sent back and what they may want for next year.

Keep your ears and eyes open, like Connie did in getting our Shroomery guest. You never know where good information for the next conference will come from. I would hug you all but you know, that virus thing is still going on. Have a good spring. Think of the plant sale next. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shirley Audetat-President & Conference Chairman



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Amanda Cauffman, Grant County
Agricultural Educator, MGV mentor**

*Submitted by Shirley Audetat
and Karin Peacock*

Myleen, Editor