

August 2018 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



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August 2018

Our purpose is to provide horticultural education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

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Important Websites for MGVs:

<http://wimastergardener.org>

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimastergardener/>

<http://www.wpr.org/programs/archives/all>

Use Our Website!

<http://www.grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com>

WIMGA NEWS

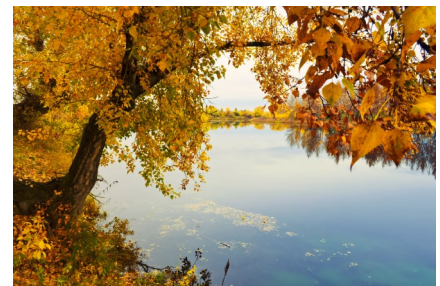
Our WIMGA organization application for grants is due October 1, 2018. We are allowed to apply for \$400, \$250 and \$100. I will apply for speakers' fee for our conference. Please let me know if you have other suggestions soon! Remember the WIMGA conference is approaching fast. Event Information Date: September 21-22, 2018

Cost: See Registration

Contact: Andy Heren

Phone: 715-839-4712

Email: 2018mgvconference@gmail.com



Join Master Gardener Volunteers and interested gardeners from around Wisconsin for two days of education and fun in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. "Autumn at the River". <https://www.wimgaconferences.com/>



WOW, ONLY TWO MONTHS UNTIL I WILL BE COLLECTING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS EARNED, CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

THE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 1st !

BLUEBERRY ABUNDANCE

Our last meeting was Thursday, July 19 at the home and farm of Nancy and Peter Ashmore. We viewed the blueberry shrubs they first planted twelve years ago. Initially 200 bushes were planted and only seven have been lost over the years.

The first photo is overlooking the hillside bushes. The second photo is one of the mature bushes planted closer to the house. We were invited to taste



blueberries fresh from the bush! The last photo shows the enclosed garden structure with bushes planted closer to the house. Storms were brewing throughout the evening. We walked to the hillside bushes and safely back to the enclosed porch just in time before a downpour. Nancy treated us with homemade blueberry ice cream along with Nancy Mergen's feast of refreshments! Three guests attended who read our news release in the local paper. The steady rain made a calm background noise and the views were spectacular!



BUS TRIPPING WAS GREAT

Fifty-one of us headed to THE LAND OF THE GIANT HOSTAS and were welcomed by spectacular rows and rows of Hostas in all shapes, sizes, color, patterns and heights. We roamed the blooming gardens and viewed Day Lilies, which were also for sale. Shirley Audetat commented she wanted more time to roam the grounds! We had forty minutes to eat at Culver's before heading to the Janesville Rotary Gardens. After a brief introduction, we were off with our guides for an hour and a half tour. This year's garden art is huge frogs decorated by local Artists and will be auctioned later. A new area is the Healing Garden for meditation. A new display garden featured PLANTS GROWN AROUND THE WORLD.



Each row is staked with the name of the Hosta.



Entrance to The Land of Giant Hostas

The frogs at the Rotary Gardens were about three feet high and four feet wide.



Each country highlighted plants commonly raised there.



Thanks to Judy V. and Ken K. for all the planning. Thanks again to Karin P. for making the poster. It was surprising how well things came together at the last minute! In two weeks, we added twenty people to the trip. Advertising was done by word of mouth, news release, handing out info at other events, FB, website and through chambers of commerce. We also invited people from the previous year trip. Twelve total MGVS attended the trip.

THE PRAIRIE WHISPERERS

Hosts Tom and Marjie Bennett

Saturday, July 21 was another day of threatening weather for this pop up event touring Tom and Marjie's Prairie Remnant of ten acres. However, by 3:00 P.M., the sun was out and a nice breeze provided us with optimal walking conditions through the groomed trails. This project began in 2003 with the winter broadcasting of over 130



Compass Plant tops waving over the fields

different seeds. Yearly records have identified 120 species. Each year the Prairie balance of flowers changes. It is Tom and Marjie's dream to open the Prairie to visitors for enjoyment and education. Gary Eldred, founder of the Prairie Enthusiasts answered questions and shared the mission of the group. Look for information at www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org describing upcoming events and locations of Prairie Remnants. A total of 12 guests enjoyed this adventure which was only published in our newsletter, on FB and announced at our meeting.



The picture does not provide all the contrasting colors of white, purple and pink.



You can just see the top of the house. The Prairie views inside are breath taking.

Grant County Fair Project Plants with Animal Names

Melody B. and Mary R. have the list of plants and donor names. Plant donations are still welcomed. You may drop your plants off at the homes of Melody B., Mary R., Terry W. or at the Grant County Fair in the Soils and Crops building on Thursday evening, August 16. A kid's workshop will take place on Saturday, August 18 from 1-3PM planting Snake or Goosefoot plants. Melody will be e-mailing instructions of what information to provide for your plant. melody@tds.net 608-778-3080



IDEAS FOR PROGRAMS 2019



The planning committee will be meeting in August. They welcome your suggestions. Contact the chair, Connie Larson or Wendy J. and Natasha R. soon. Suggested garden

tours during the summer are for the Boscobel FoodWise site, Corey W. and Marsha S.. It would be great if Marjie B. would agree to a Thursday night tour of the Prairie with more advertising to the public.



Project Updates

UWEX Native Garden will be in tip top shape for the Grant County Fair thanks to Marjie B., Mary R. and Judy V. .

Orhard Manor is cared for by Doreen H.. Doreen trimmed shrubs and planted annuals this year and reports residents continue to enjoy walks in the outdoor enclosed area. Doreen is waiting for the go ahead to plant a front lawn welcoming area. Let Doreen know if you are interested in helping with this project.

Platteville Arboretum involves the work of many community organizations. Karin P. is one of the planting advisors. Recently I walked the trails during the time the EARLY SUNFLOWERS were in bloom. The trails are 3 miles long and are wide enough for bikers, runners, walkers and strollers. Take a drive and check it out!

GCMGV August Meeting

The Grant County Master Gardener Program is scheduled for August 9 beginning at 6:30 P.M. at Vesperman's Farm, Lancaster. It is Pizza Night on the farm. You are invited to join us by purchasing your dinner and eating as a group. Around 8:00 P.M., Dr. Rami Reddy from UWP will join us for a discussion about his Baby Ginger Project, which began in 2017.



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



Terry Wood, President

Myleen, Editor