

February 2019 Newsletter

Grant County Master Gardeners



Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2019

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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READY, SET, GROW! CONFERENCE



Inga Witscher

Our Ready, Set, Grow! conference brochure and registration is available on our website. March 23 is only two months away! The conference committee will be giving a report at our February 21 meeting. The committee would like assistance stuffing folders after our business meeting. Please help us spread the word about our conference by clicking share on our MGv FB page. Below is the press release.

"The Grant County Master Gardener Association will be hosting their 4th Annual Spring Conference, Ready, Set, Grow!

On Saturday, March 23, 2019 at Vesperman Farms, 8149 Stage Road, Lancaster WI from 7:45AM to 12:30PM. Cost for the event will be \$20.00, which will include the speakers, snacks and door prizes. In addition, attendees will be able to view a variety of displays with volunteers

Important Websites for MGv's:
<http://wimastergardener.org>

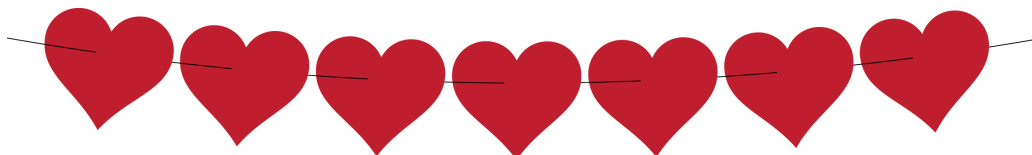
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimastergardener/>

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

on hand to answer any questions. We welcome all individuals interested in gardening to attend our conference.

Featured speakers are **Inga Witscher**, host of the PBS series *Around the Farm Table*. She will provide an entertaining and educational cooking demonstration by making a Smorgastrata, a Scandinavian style sandwich cake. **Phil Pellitteri**, Distinguished Faculty Associate Emeritus of the UW-Madison Entomology Department will talk about "Bugs in Your Yard." **Carol McDaniel**, founder of the Lafayette County Bluebird Society, will explain the best methods used for bluebird success, and **Kevin Flynn** will explain how beekeeping and gardening go naturally together. He will answer any questions about how to get started with beekeeping as a hobby or sideline.

For more information about our conference or to register, please visit <http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com> or call **Connie Larson** at 608-725-5570"



 WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION

GARDEN & LANDSCAPE EXPO

February 8-10, 2019

You received an e-mail earlier regarding the photo contest new this year. This is a juried competition and the public can vote either Friday or until noon on Saturday. The contest is open to six states. Shirley Audetat's two entries were accepted. If you are attending the contest, please check this new event out and vote! More information is available on our website calendar. <https://www.wigardenexpo.com/>

How MGVS Local and WIMGA Dues Are Used

In the past, we have collected our local and WIMGA dues in October. The local dues remain in our budget. The Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) dues, not to be confused with our State Master Gardener Association, are used to support grants and operation expenses of WIMGA. Technically, you do not have to be a member of this organization but Grant County Master Gardener Volunteers has always required dues from each member. According to Bryon Hacker, treasurer of WIMGA, Grant County has received the most grant money over the years from WIMGA towards educational projects. In addition, WIMGA will be sending out their newsletter by e-mail only beginning in March of 2019. You will receive it for six months. Other benefits include training, speaker suggestions and networking information. This year rather than a State Conference, WIMGA will be offering training in different locations throughout the state. You can read all about WIMGA on our website, visit the WIMGA website, (wimga.org) read newsletters published in 2018 or visit with Karin Peacock who has been our local representative. I would encourage you to read the December WIMGA newsletter as there are two MGVS running for

Members at Large on the board. Donna Teynor from the Crawford County Master Gardener Volunteers is a candidate. You may submit your vote by March 22, 2019 by e-mail to the WIMGA president, Becky Guzman, buckhill@centurylink.net or by completing the form in the newsletter.

Along with the WIMGA dues, we are required to send a list of all MGVS to WIMGA.

Miscommunication resulted in our Grant County MGVS not receiving the newsletters in 2018 even though our check has our Grant County MGVS on it. I have been in touch with Bryon Hacker our WIMGA treasurer and our current 2019 member list was received via e-mail. I strongly encourage you to go back and read the 2018 newsletters on the WIMGA site. You will enjoy the articles about MGVS throughout Wisconsin. In the future, I would suggest we e-mail our WIMGA dues and member list in January of the current year.

FEBRUARY 21, FIRST MEETING OF 2019



We will be meeting at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. Our program will begin at 6:30PM with our speaker, Sue Krause. Big River Organics, LLC, is a new business in Cassville, Wisconsin started by Susan Krause and her assistant Tammy Droessler after their retirements from the Madison

Police Department where they served for 22 years. They purchased a home in Cassville and began their business. Big River Organics specializes in Red Wigglers (red worms) to produce compost material from household organic by-products. They also used waste materials from the school and outdated vegetables from the local store Okey's. Susan has had an interest in conservation and gardening since her childhood days of growing up in Janesville and LaFarge. While serving in the police department, she encouraged community members to pursue gardening. Eventually the police department sent her to Milwaukee for some training where she became acquainted with Red Wigglers and their usefulness for gardeners. Red Wigglers digest food wasters, which become compost. Susan will explain her process of composting and using Red Wigglers while speaking to the Grant County Master Gardeners meeting February 21, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster, Wisconsin. She will explain the details of how she started her business, where the compost is sold, and how to contact her if interested in purchasing compost. The presentation is open to the public.

Please let Terry know if you signed up for refreshments for this meeting last November.

2019 Events Underway



On January 26, Melody Bahr, Karin Peacock and Terry Wood worked at the Platteville

Library Community Involvement Fair. Our booth included a display of squash with soup recipes, a soil sampling information display board, and information about our Ready, Set, Grow! conference.



Melody Bahr discussing Straw Bale Gardening



Karin, Terry, Melody

4-H Family Involvement Day



On Saturday, February 9, Cindy Arndt, Nancy Mergen, Mary Rasmussen, and Terry Wood will be

presenting a project on composting working with ten kids at a time for four, thirty-minute sessions. The session will include making composting bags, viewing a you-tube video, and reading books about composting. Cindy Arndt is growing grass cups at home to distribute along with how to care for them. Cindy is also sending home extra supplies for each child to plant and grow at home.

Volunteer Opportunity Saturday, July 20 Creative Youth Expo

A request has been submitted for MGVS to present a workshop on Saturday, July 20 for the CREATIVE YOUTH EXPO. This yearly event is sponsored by a dedicated group of volunteers first formed as a SW Tech event, then a UWP event but now is not associated with any group organization. Each workshop is one hour long and we would hold two back-to-back sessions in either the morning or afternoon. The age group most likely would be 8-14 year olds. The EXPO is from 9:00AM-3:00PM at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. If you are interested in helping with this event, please text 732-4651 or e-mail me woodfam@centurytel.net. by February 15. I have some projects in mind if you need

inspiration. This event would be a great addition to our youth activities and has the potential of being a yearly project.

STRAW AVAILABLE?

Doreen Hlaverty would like some straw. Please contact her if you have some available. Doreen's cell is 773-396-9479.

Reporting Volunteer Hours for 2019

Each member should have received an e-mail with directions of how to login to the new online volunteer hours reporting system. Currently you may not enter your volunteer hours for 2019 online so please keep a paper copy of your hours. When you attend our monthly MGVS, remember to count the educational component and our business meeting. If you are planning a display for the Garden Conference, count your time researching, making the display, set-up and take down time and the time you spend engaging with visitors at your display.

CALL FOR LOCAL GRANT MONIES FROM OUR GRANT COUNTY MGVS ORGANIZATION

In November of last year, we discussed our local budget and talked about projects that need funding for 2019. On our website under the forms menu, you will find an application named Local Grant request. Bring your request to our next MGVS meeting for discussion and approval. You may submit a request up to \$250.00.



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



Terry Wood, President

Myleen, Editor