

# February 2020 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



Volume 1, Issue 1

February 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

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**Next Meeting:** **Note change of time to 6PM** at south room, Youth and Ag Center, Lancaster



To start our new program year with new leadership by President Shirley Audetat, James Schneider, Community Development Educator, will guide us in understanding the True Color Personality Assessment.

True Colors is a way to understand the behaviors and motivations of others relative to our own personalities to help mitigate potential conflict by learning to recognize personality differences and characteristics.

Following the enlightening program, the business meeting has a full agenda for making plans for 2020. This is a meeting that will have major components of a yearly plan and will inspire us to do things better.

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

<https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu>

<https://www.wpr.org/programs/garden-talk>

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

<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/>

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

<http://grantcountymastergardeners.wcblv.com/online-reporting---forms--reports.html>

## **Professional Development Continuing Education for MGVs (and you!)**

- **Plants Plus** (ongoing)
- Placemaking lite 2020 (contact Amy for information; late registrations offered through January)
- **February 7-9, 2020: Garden Expo, Madison, WI**

## **Training**

**Level 1 Training Classes** have begun with six women who are enthusiastic to learn and volunteer in their communities. Guests and master gardeners are welcome to the meetings that have guest speakers. The schedule is posted on our web site (How to Become Certified Tab). As a reminder, call the Extension office to confirm date, places, and time.

<https://www.weebly.com/editor/main.php#/>

On Feb. 6, Clyde Holverson, garden expert from Platteville and favorite speaker for the training classes, will speak on Integrated Pest Management. He tends to use the natural way of pest management in his garden and will share his techniques of controlling pests. You could say he

is pesticide free and supports organic method.

On March 26, Kjersten Oudman of Kingshill Farm, Mineral Point, will be speaking on organic gardening, using heirloom varieties, and other gardening practices. Read more about these gardeners and their farm at <https://kingshillfarm.com/>. Kjersten and her husband are the ideal growers to have in our area. She used to teach gardening classes so sounds like an excellent resource for our training classes.

## Conferences

### Big Event Coming Up -- Fifth Annual Spring Conference – March 21

The committee has put many hours in planning a conference that will offer something for all gardeners. They believe that the varied lineup of speakers should pique interest among new and experienced gardeners.

Be sure to register by March 5 to save your spot and save \$5.00. Registrations will be available at the door.

This article for the media below gives you an idea of what you will find:

Grant County 5th Annual Spring Conference covering gardening topics for beginners and beyond will be held at Vesperman Farms, 8149 Stage Road, Lancaster, WI on Saturday, March 21 from 7:30am to 12:45pm. There will be four speakers, refreshments, door prizes and display tables. Early registration is \$20, after March 5 the cost is \$25. Walk-ins are welcome.

Kristen Conley, operator of Blue Barrel Produce, will talk about organic gardening. Moreover, what makes it different from other types of farming. She will emphasize practical strategies for a successful harvest.

Jason Funkhouser, Owner, and Designer of Division Cut Flower Farm, will discuss how to grow flowers from seed to vase so you can create beautiful floral arrangements. He will share tips and tricks he has learned to make growing easier.

Brian Hudelson is the Director of the UW-Madison Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic, and a frequent guest speaker on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Garden Talk." He will talk about how to recognize and control common plant diseases found in vegetable and ornamental gardens. Come find out why he is affectionately known as "Dr. Death."

Doug Cheever, a Dubuque County Master Gardener, will discuss ground covers for Southwest Wisconsin. Learn inexpensive, low maintenance ways to fill areas in your yard where grass does not grow or you do not want to mow.

For more information about the conference go to <http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com>. To register call the Grant County Extension Office at (608) 723- 2125.

Here is the link [2020 Conference](#) to the poster, brochure, press release, and printer friendly registration. **Registration blanks will be available at the Feb. meeting for members to register as Early Birds.**

**Bus Trip.** Planning the bus trip is fun with an itinerary that has so much to offer. We cannot see it all, but sure will try to fit a fun-packed day into the trip on June 26. See flyer on page 5. The registration is on the web site at [Bus Tour Registration](#) or call the Extension at 723-2125. There is a deadline so do not delay in reserving a spot for this affordable trip for a day to remember!

The \$45 fee **includes all these items**: bus fee plus driver's tip, snacks and water, garden related drawings, \$5 wine tasting, and lunch.

Schedule below of the four stops:

Tour guides if you choose is included at Genoa National Fish Hatchery and Friendship Gardens, Lacrosse.

Wine tasting event and lunch by Dionné Catering at Vernon Winery, Viroqua

Second Nature Garden Center, offering 10% discount on purchases, Readstown.

## Volunteers Wanted!

**What better way to spend some time with like-minded gardeners and gain the benefits of acquiring new friends that love gardening. The result is making an impact with the projects.**

**Wanted: A couple of volunteers!** Karin would like some help in creating the Annual Accomplishment Report for **2018**. Our county should have enough info for input for a report with quality photos. The annual report is submitted to the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program that documents the activities of volunteers throughout the county in a brief summary, provides information on volunteer hours reported and includes narrative about our program.

**4-H Family Project Day on Feb. 8** from 9 a.m. until noon, Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster. We will have four sessions of kids lasting around 30 minutes each session. There will be a maximum of 10 kids per session. Jo Reynolds and Mary Rasmussen will decide on the project and have all the materials. Mary is unable to be there on the Saturday. She just needs a willing volunteer or two besides Cindy Arndt to assist the kids. Please contact Mary Rasmussen at [cmemnras@chorus.net](mailto:cmemnras@chorus.net) or call 778-2651, as soon as possible

### **Flower Bed Project**

Shirley has an opportunity to offer a project at the Lancaster fairgrounds. We need to bring our abundant skills, fresh ideas, and extra hands to help with a flowerbed at the fairgrounds. Amy, fair secretary, will give a space to the left of the double doors in the front of the Eckstein building for a bed. We will make a decision on this at the next meeting to come up with a design. We need someone to look at the space before the meeting.



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## **Gardening at the Library Series is back!**

Lancaster is first on deck- watch for future series at Platteville, Bloomington, and Cassville.

**Feb. 29 at 10:00 am** with Shirley Audetat, "Tips on Starting Seeds in the Winter. " Check out how to save yourself some money growing your own flowers for the spring and summer season. Come visit the Schreiner Library on Leap Year Day and leap into spring planning!



## What was happening at the Community Involvement Fair, Jan. 25

Platteville Library (will need to fill in with summary on what happened and some photos after. 25)

Display will be about Phenology which ties in with the free seed packets offered.

Melody Bahr and Karin Peacock are taking on this project.

**On sad note**, we lost a true friend and gardener, Gary Olson, on January 6, 2020. When he paid his dues in 2016, I knew then we may not have Gary's continued support in helping us like he did very willingly with pruning and all kinds of gardening info he shared.

Link to his obit is <https://www.melbyfh.com/obituary/gary-olson>

## Upcoming Events in Dubuque

### LANDSCAPE-PRUNING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020

12:30 PM TO 3:45 PM

HOSTED BY THE DUBUQUE MASTER GARDENERS

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2155 UNIVERSITY AVE

DUBUQUE, IA 52001



[HTTPS://WWW.EXTENSION.IASTATE.EDU/DUBUQUE/  
LANDSCAPE-PRUNING-WORKSHOP](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/landscape-pruning-workshop)

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**DUBUQUE MASTER GARDENERS SPRING CONFERENCE  
MARCH 14 -- MORE DETAILS LATER.**

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/spring-garden-seminar>

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2020 TOUR OF GAR-  
DENS, DUBUQUE, IA  
SATURDAY – JUNE 20, 2020**

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/MgTourofGardens>



# JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> 2020

## BUS TRIP ALONG THE RIVER ROAD

### Schedule includes tours:

- ❖ Genoa National Fish Hatchery
- ❖ Friendship Gardens, Lacrosse
- ❖ Wine Tasting & Lunch at Vernon Winery, Viroqua
- ❖ Second Nature Garden Center, Readstown

*Call 608-723-2125 to request registration form.*

*Or Grant County Master Gardener's site:  
<http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com/>*

**One Day Get Away**

**Grant County Master Gardeners welcome friends to join them for a fun—packed day!**

**Trip includes lunch, snacks, water, wine tasting, chances for prizes!**

**Reserve your spot early!**

**Deadline is 6/12/20**

**Cost is \$45**

### **PICK UP LOCATIONS**

Platteville, former Farm & Fleet parking lot, 6:20 AM

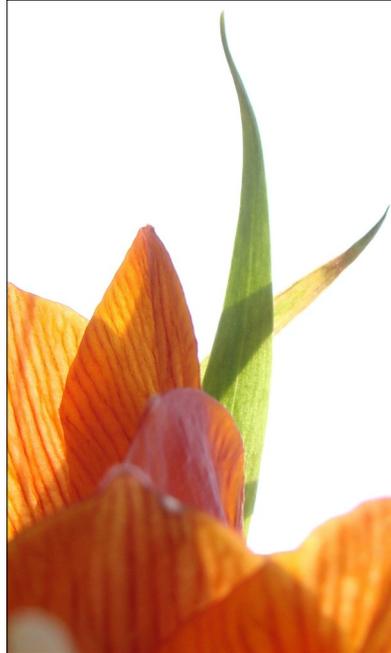
Lancaster, former Shopko parking lot, 6:50 AM

Bloomington, Warco, 7:15 AM

Prairie du Chien, Wal-Mart parking lot, 7:45 AM

## President's Spot

While you are browsing among the vendors and enjoying the seminars at the Garden Expo in Madison, walk by the art display and check out my photos, which are on exhibit, again this year in the Landscape and Abstract categories. Do not forget to vote. You can vote Friday and Saturday. Viewers choice will be announced on Sat at 4:00. I don't know where it will be located. Last year it was in the middle of the floor in back by the demonstrations. You should be able to see the photos on display while walking around.



*Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my hearty thanks for voting for me as president. With everyone's support and guidance, I believe we should have an excellent year and have some fun with it!*

*The wheels have started rolling and the upcoming business meeting will cover a lot of ground. Hope to see you there!*

*Shirley*



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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

*Submitted by Shirley Audetat  
and Karin Peacock*

*Myleen, Editor*