

February 2018 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



Volume 1, Issue 1

February 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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February 10, **4-H Family Project Day**

MGV class on succulents and mason bee houses. The event will be held at the Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster. The building will open at 8AM, registration begins at 9:15AM. We offer four one-half hour sessions with the first starting at 9:30AM, then 10, 10:30 and 11:00. Lunch will be served after the last session in which all volunteers and participants are invited to join.

February 9-11, **Madison Garden Expo**

<http://wigardenexpo.com/highlights> Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wisconsin

February 16, **MGV meeting** beginning at 6:30PM, Youth and Ag building, Lancaster, Connie Larson MGV speaking about *Russian Home Gardens*.

March 10, **Bluff Country Master Gardeners Spring Into Gardening.**

Registration opens 1/22. We will have an information packed day, along with vendors and the silent auction. Our keynote speaker this year will be Melinda Myers. She will be offering two events in the afternoon. In the morning we have Joe Cook and Earth Club students from Sparta High School to talk about the school's Food Dehydration machine. Carol Labuzzetta (a Bluff Country Master Gardener) talking about monarchs, milkweed and gardening with children. Also, Marlene Rosenberg from Uniquely Hostas. To register on line, just go to <http://www.bluffcountrymastergardeners.org/> select 2018 Spring Into Gardening from the top which will take you to registration, the schedule and payment options. You can also mail your registration in or register the day of the event. Karin Peacock has attended this event in the past and can share more information about this opportunity.

Important Websites for MGVs:

<http://wimastergardener.org>

This site has information on the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program.

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

This site is the Extension blog for Master Gardeners.

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

This site takes you to all the WI Public Radio archived programs. Listen for the Larry Meiller Show which airs live on Friday at 11:00 am and Saturday at 7:00 am.

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

This is our association's site for updates.

April 7, **Ready, Set, Grow, Third Annual MGV Garden Conference** beginning at 7:45AM. Cost is \$20.00. Send registration to Connie Larson. Look for more information on our web page.
<http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com/>

May 12, **Annual Plant Sale** beginning at 8:00AM. Set up Friday the 11th.

June 8, **Horticulture Therapy Workshop** with Mike Maddox, Youth and Ag. Lancaster, beginning at 8:30AM. Cost is \$15.00, limited to the first 44. Send registration to Lori Vesperman, Grant County – UW Extension, Youth & Agriculture Center, 916 E Elm Street, Suite A, Lancaster, WI 53813.

OUR FIRST MEETING OF 2018

Feb. 16, MGV meeting beginning at 6:30PM, Youth & Ag building, Lancaster

Connie Larson MGV, speaking about Russian Home Gardens with photos. I will have information available about various committee's and chairs. You will have the opportunity to sign up for as many as you wish.

Vacancy at Katie's Garden



There is a spot available in Platteville vacated by Judy Soles, who will be moving. If you are interested, Karin Peacock can give you more information about what this entails.

*Our most sincere condolences to
Karin Mahoney who lost her husband Mike
unexpectedly in January.*

2018 MGV Training

Karin Peacock and I have been traveling to Dodgeville to assist with training provided by Iowa County Agricultural Agent Gene Shriefer. If you are interested in attending any of the sessions, Karin and I carpool from the old Farm and Fleet parking lot in Platteville. We meet at 5:30PM. Class goes until about 9PM. Call either of us if you plan to ride along. Our schedule is: February 14, Clyde Holverson speaking on fruits, vegetables and general gardening; February 21, Integrated Pest Management and Weeds, Woody and Herbaceous plants slide show; February 28, Soils and Compost; and March 5, presentation of individual topics. This is an experienced group of gardeners and discussion is always lively!

Opportunity for Volunteer Hours Share Your Talent

by Natasha Rank

Do you have an activity, presentation or past demonstration that you would like to share with other horticulture enthusiasts? Seeking 8 table displays that educate & inspire 'Ready, Set, Grow' conference attendees to be viewed throughout the morning. The Grant County MG Conference, April 7th, is being held at Vesperman Farm. Set up starts at 7am and take down is 12:30pm, Friday set up may be a possibility too. The table space available is a round table or 3ft. X 6ft. rectangle table. Please contact me by email, n.rank6@gmail.com to reserve your table at the conference and if you have any questions.

Community Volunteer Showcase



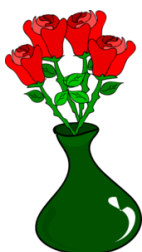
On Saturday, January 27, MGV participated in the Community Volunteer Showcase at the Platteville Library. Marilyn Aebersold and Wendy Johnson were available to answer questions and promote our upcoming events.



Wendy said it was a good turn out and a great networking event. As a result, we received two requests for help from the Platteville Senior center and Roundtree Gallery. Thank you volunteers for your time and energy making an attractive table!

Valentine Rose Care

Here are some tips to take care of Valentine's Day roses-



1. Roses delivered in a box need to be opened immediately and placed in water. If this cannot be done, put the entire box in a cool, dark place such as a refrigerator or garage.
2. Remove any leaves that may fall below the waterline when placed in the vase, as they will promote bacterial growth.
3. To extend the life of roses, use a sharp knife or shears to cut an inch from the bottom of the stem while holding it under water.
4. To help avoid dehydration, place the vase in a cool spot away from direct sunlight, heating and cooling vents, and appliances that give off heat.
5. To keep roses looking fresh, add warm water to the vase every day. Always keep the vase full.



Vegetable Gardening Classes

Sinsinawa Mound is offering a series of educational sessions for vegetable gardening beginning February 7 and ending March 7. Each session runs from 6:30PM to 8PM and cost \$10.00 each. Register online at <https://www.sinsinawa.org/moundcenter/events/> or phone 608-748-4411 ext. 811.



Terry Wood, President
Myleen, Editor

