

# July Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



Volume 6, Issue 1

July 2017

*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>

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.

## **Busy MGVs during the Month of June**

### **Chicago Botanic Bus Tour**



This figure of Swedish physician Linnaeus (1701-1778) looms large in the history of science and is appropriately placed in the Heritage Garden. Linnaeus established binomial nomenclature, the international system of naming plants and animals that is still in use today.

He is shown reaching eagerly toward the plants in his path with a collector's enthusiasm. The prominent bird in the sculpture — a golden plover, which can fly for thousands of miles — refers to the many students of Linnaeus who traveled the globe collecting plants for him to name.

Showing some of the group of 54 departing for the amazing gardens that had something in bloom in all the different gardens on the 385 acres of land and waterways. We picked a beautiful summer day to walk around for hours observing the plants, landscaping, sculptures and spectacular show of Brazil in the Garden by Roberto Burle Max. It is an incredible display and one can see why it's rated the second most visited gardens in the US. Other visitors along with our group are impressed with the work that is being done by 250 full time workers and 3,000 volunteers.



As chair of committee, I would like to thank Ken Kluesner, Judy Vesperman, Dorothy Price, Kerry McCabe, and Connie Larson because without their help, this trip would not have been possible. Of course, all the attendees of friends and family made for great day. Thanks from Karin Peacock, chair of bus tour.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/134322934@N03/sets/72157682716409184/>

## Report from Market Night in Fennimore



Kerry McCabe and I represented the Master Gardener program from 3:30-7pm, June 8. Our set up was on the fairway between Fennimore Lumber and the Dinky Train/Train Museum on Lincoln Avenue. I believe there were six other vendors. We had many pursuers who asked questions and took pamphlets and printed information. This is the Chamber of Commerce first Market Night, the attendance was not huge but nearly all attendees stopped at our booth. ~ Marsha Schneider

### The Importance of Bees as Pollinators for Our Food

Terry Wood presented a slide show to over twenty children at the Livingston Library. The topics included food needing pollinators, why bees are declining and what we can do to increase the bee population. The students also viewed online pictures of BEE DRONES used in research. Each family went home with seeds to plant, a flower guide to attract pollinators and a Wisconsin Bee Identification handout. Students took home a guide with web pages and more suggestions on how to learn about bees as pollinators.

### Seed Bomb Making at the Boscobel Library

On June 14<sup>th</sup> Kerry McCabe and I assisted Boscobel's Hildebrand Memorial library staff with their summer children's program. The theme for this year's summer program is "Build a Better World." There were close 50 children present as well as several parents. The children ranged in age from two to ten. Kerry and I gave a brief



presentation on how plants and flowers can help make our world better. This was followed by our assisting the staff when the children built seed bombs. Instructions for seed bombs can be found on the internet. They are basically a mud ball about the size of a golf ball. A few seeds are inserted into the ball before the mud dries. It can then be set in the garden or thrown into an area for random seeding. We recommended the staff procure marigold or zinnia seeds for the balls as they germinate easily and can easily be handled by small hands.

We had fun. It was one of my most enjoyable volunteer efforts. ~ Peggy Thereault

### Succulents

On June 10<sup>th</sup> at Sugar and Spice, I presented a How to Make: Succulent wreath and a succulent picture frame with a step-by-step process. It was attended by six people. How to propagate succulents was covered and how to maintain the wreath and frame. Focus was becoming more in touch with nature



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and plants and using various colors of plants to "Paint" a picture! ~ Corey Weydert



course. A \$250 dollar grant was submitted to MGV fund and this money was used to purchase perennials and shrubs. The aforementioned group met on two occasions to complete the project. In total we designed and planted the entry way, signage entrance, and tee marker holes 1, 4, 10 and 18 with new plants. Some existing shrubs were moved to more conducive growing areas. We will provide the golf course with a binder of education on how to care for areas in the future. Pending the carryover care by the course we may extend this project to include more tee marker box renovations in the future. A barrier to the project was the bark in the entry was in some spots almost 2 feet deep which made it a challenge to plant! ~ Corey Weydert

### **A Day on the Farm, Platteville**

### **Lancaster Golf Club Beautification Project Completed**



Corey Weydert and his MGV assistants planted flowers at the golf course.



Melody Bahr was at the Digman Farm on June 17 from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. Many visitors stopped at her table to learn about STRAW BALE GARDENING. Melody had a live demo. Melody generously offered her time on a beautiful Saturday. Thank You!

MGV were approached by Lancaster Municipal golf course on helping them design and provide a beautification of several areas on the golf course. New construction and flatwork concrete and terraced stone work was created as a new entryway into the clubhouse. Karin Peacock, Connie Landon, Judy Vesperman, Jean Hopkins and I met and provided landscape design for the entryway and several tee markers on the

### **Ask A Master Gardener Booth and MGV Saturday Demonstrations Fennimore Sugar and Spice**

Shirley Audetat wrapped up organizing for the third year, ASK A MGV through May and MGV demonstrations through the end of June. Shirley is an employee of Sugar and Spice. Customers have commented they have the best variety of tomatoes in the area and beautiful hanging baskets.

Shirley noted more people took information from the MGCV booth the first two years. This year MGCVs had to go to the customer to give them information.



Five demonstrations were offered: Air Plants by Shirley, attendance low; Fairy Garden by Carley Bourcherding Crawford MGCV, twenty attendees paid a fee, a few weather issues, but patience paid off; Square Foot Gardening by Terry Wood and Connie Landon, attendance low; Pollination by Doreen Hlavaty and Karin Peacock attendance very low; Succulent Display by Corey Weydert attendance about six.



Shirley sincerely thanks MGCVs who weathered the heat, rain, cold, and low attendance and those who have been supportive of her efforts. This will be the last year Shirley will be organizing MGCV events at Sugar and Spice.

## Fair Time is Only Weeks Away in Grant County

The Grant County Master Gardeners Volunteers will have a table reserved for us in the Crops Building. The size is 4'x8'. We need to design a new display board theme. Would any members be willing to have a demo class during the afternoon on Sunday, August 13 or Saturday, August 19? Amy Olson, the fair secretary, suggested we plan early afternoon between 1:00–2:00 PM. We have very talented MGCVs, so pick a topic and earn some volunteer hours! Seed bomb making? Composting? Growing a Salad Bowl? Mason Bee House making? We would like to come up with short presentations (twenty minutes) and work in groups of two. Let Terry Wood know SOON if you are interested in creating the display or interested in a demonstration. This is a good way to promote our association and brag about what we do!

## Mentor Program

Karin Peacock has posted the WIGMA document about mentoring on our home web page under WIGMA.

[Grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com](http://Grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com)

We briefly touched on this topic earlier in spring. If we do have a training session beginning in January, it would make sense we begin our mentor program then. Marathon County will be sharing information about their mentoring program. Hopefully, in September, we will be ready to discuss a plan for Grant County.



Thank you to our Bus Trip Committee: Karin Peacock, Judy Vesperman, Ken Kluesner, Dorothy Price and Kerry McCabe. I know they

met several times for planning, made phone calls, and provided the entertainment and refreshments for the trip. It is never too early to be thinking about next year's trip! Connie Larson did a fantastic job keeping track of registrations, making a boarding list and cashing checks.

## All about Herbs Dubuque Arboretum, July 15

About fourteen of us attended the program on Herbs by Fran Hedeman and her assistants from the Dubuque Herb Society. Fran divided us into groups and we rotated from the herb dye garden, medicinal herb garden, culinary herb garden and historical herb garden. Each caretaker of the garden answered questions and were very knowledgeable. Fran had four books she recommended as a reference. Everybody enjoyed the treats prepared by Fran and assistants incorporating herbs. These included a herb cake, salsa dip, cookies and bread with herb spread. It was a beautiful night to walk the gardens and we just missed the rain!



Culinary Herbs



Herb Sampling



Fran Hedeman talking about Historical Herbs

## PROJECT REMINDER

**Just a  
reminder...**



Please inform Terry Wood and Ted Bay if you are undertaking a new project. The Project survey form is on our web page. This allows me to pre-approve your project and let Ted know it is acceptable. We do this mainly for insurance purposes.



## Bluebird Information

Lafayette County  
Bluebird Society, Inc.

Contact Carol McDaniel, 608-922=BIRD or  
[bluebirdhouse.org@gmail.com](mailto:bluebirdhouse.org@gmail.com)

<http://www.bluebirdhouse.org>

## Beautiful Gardens to Visit on July 13, Rain Date July 20

Wendy Johnson and Karin Peacock will spend many hours preparing their gardens for us. If you ever were on a tour, you know this first hand! Please come out and appreciate their handiwork! Each tour will last about one hour. Guests are welcomed! Refreshments and a short meeting will follow after the second tour.

### **Wendy Johnson, 2963 Quarry Rd, First Stop, Begin at 6:00 P.M.**

**Directions from Lancaster:** Go to Dickeyville. From Dickeyville, take county Rd. HH to the stop sign (about 4 miles). Turn left and Quarry Rd., is first left. First house.

**Directions from Platteville:** Take County D south to County H. Turn right and go about 3 miles. Quarry Rd. is last right before you would turn off to go to Dickeyville. First house.

Wendy has been a MGV since 2011. Currently she is the Vice-President of our association. Wendy wrapped up her second year as the Plant Sale Chair. Wendy has been teaching one session of our MGV training in recent years. She enjoys working on volunteer projects with children. Wendy and her family have lived on the property for 8 years and have a small vegetable garden and an area for small fruits. Mixed borders grow along the property lines and house both filled with perennials and unusual flowering shrubs. The property is still a work in progress due to her busy family life with two teenagers in the family!



### **Karin Peacock, second stop, 4024 County D, Begin at 7:00 P.M.**

**Directions from Wendy's road,** take county H, going north; turn left unto county D, destination on right after approx. 5.5 miles from Wendy's road.

Karin joined the MG association in 2001 and served in various officer positions for 16 years. Currently, she maintains the county's website and three garden areas at Katie's Garden. Karin also volunteers on projects such as the plant sale, Platteville Community Arboretum,

WIGMA district representative on state board, Master Gardener Trainer for Grant County since 2009, and participates in other service projects with the county Master Gardeners, time permitting. Karin's gardens include flowering shrubs, perennials and annuals. This is Steve Peacock's, Karin's husband, home farm. Pine trees will greet you up the long driveway.

### **Future Events**

**Platteville Community Arboretum Walk,** August 17, 6:30 PM, meet at the Mineral St entrance (Near Rural Excavating). Golf Carts are available for those who prefer to ride the path.

**Wisconsin Daylily Society Annual Daylily Plant Sale,** Olbrich Gardens, Madison, WI

Saturday, Aug 19, 10AM – 4PM

Sunday, Aug. 20, 11AM – 3PM



Ted Bay  
Crops & Farm Management Agent



*Terry Wood, President*  
*Myleen, Editor*