

July 2018 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



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July 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.

2017-2020 Officers

President

Terry Wood
woodfam@centurytel.net
608-732-4651

Vice President

Wendy Johnson
wendyj18@lagrant.net
608-732-3893

Secretary

Karen L. Mahoney
klmahoney61@yahoo.com
608-748-5432

Treasurer

Connie Larson
bclarson@tds.net
608-725-5570

Use Our Website!

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

You will find registration for the State Conference, Horticulture Therapy Day, and the bus trip. There are links to other events relating to gardening posted. Note: New WIMGA address is www.wigma.org.

Next Meeting July 19, Growing Blueberries in Wisconsin

We will meet at 6:30PM at the home of Nancy and Peter Ashmore. The address is 4301 McGhan Rd, Fennimore, WI. Her phone number is 822-6527. Our group will tour the grounds, break for refreshments and conclude with our business meeting.



Bus Trip July 6

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

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

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



We still have reservations coming in and hope to hit over forty. Our capacity is fifty-five so please spread the word!

Remember to wear a comfortable pair of walking shoes, plan for possible rainy

weather, and grab the bug spray. We are providing snacks and water for the trip. Ken K. will lead the games and be responsible for counting bus riders on/off the bus. Our food stop will be Culver's, however; you can pack a lunch if you wish.



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

THE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 1st !

Change of Date for August Meeting to Thursday, August 9



All are invited to Vesperman's Farm in Lancaster for Pizza Night. We will have tables set aside for our group. Dr. Rami Ready from UWP will provide a program at 8:00PM on his Ginger Project. A very short business meeting will be held. <https://www.vespermanfarms.com/pizza-nights.html>

Grant County Fair Project Plants with Animal Names

Eight MGVs have signed up for this project with a total of 15 plants promised. Please let Melody Bahr know if you can provide a plant. Her phone is 778-3080. You may also call Mary Rasmussen at 778-2651. Let's make this a remarkable and unforgettable display! On Saturday, kids will have an opportunity to pot a Goosefoot or Snake Plant to take home.

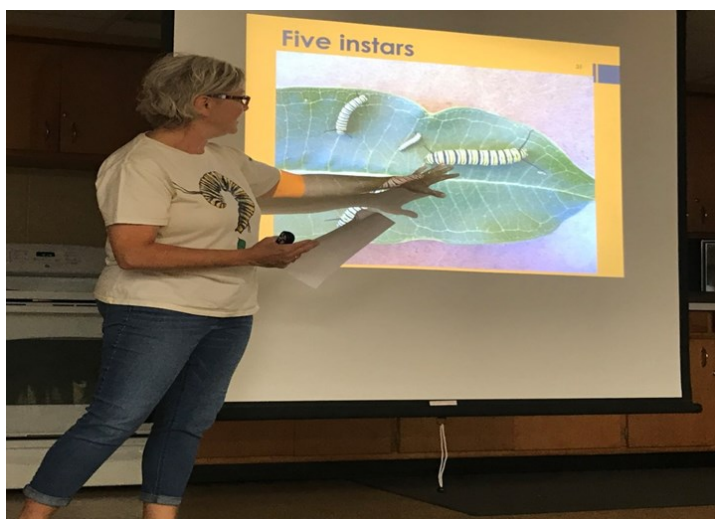


Betty, our guest, amazed at the caterpillar, and Myleen enjoying the wonder!



Horticulture Therapy Class Held on June 8

June's Meeting on Magical Monarchs



Kirsten Rush sharing the five instars.

Everybody in attendance would agree this was a very scientific and informative program given by Kirsten Rush. Kirsten prepared a slide show, photos of her very excited second graders, and many books and posters. The greatest part of her demo was the live stages of the monarch butterfly from baby to adult. Kirsten had three examples of homemade houses. The handouts included how to become a certified Monarch Wayside. I talked to several MGV interested in completing the paperwork to receive certification for their current gardens. We had three guests all having great comments about what they knew already regarding the plight of the butterflies.



MGV Grant County, back row 1, Marjie Bennett, front row, 1 Mary Rasmussen, 2 Connie Landon, 5 Kerry McCabe, 7 Marsha Schneider

Mike Maddox was our workshop leader for the day. His theme centered on participants creating a flower arrangement in a coffee cup. Through this experience, Mike was able to lead the group in a discussion of improvements on the activity, the directions, and how to accommodate physical limits. Later in the afternoon, Mike set us up for role-playing while attempting to plant herbs or an annual flowerpot. Some of his props included gloves, vision-altering goggles and dangerous garden tools! It was well worth the time and at the end, the group shared something new they would take home and apply. This was a joint planning effort by Crawford and Grant County MGVs.

NEWS FROM WIMGA

AUTUMN AT THE RIVER CONFERENCE, SEPT. 21-22, at Eau Claire

Click on link to read details about registration and speakers:

<https://www.wimga.org/annual-wimga-conference>

The board along with local reps has been working on defining the relationship between the Program Office, Local Associations and Extension Programs since changes and implementation of mandates from the UW-System are taking place. Since changes are ongoing, this project began in 2014 and became necessary to move forward with some plans. Our goals were to address the following:

- Define roles and responsibilities of all parties to determine accountability
- Adjust alignment to current needs and issues
- Develop necessary MOUs and update existing bylaws
- Improve the functioning of both MGP and WIMGA; strengthen partnership
- Better support the educators and volunteers at the local level for an improved program experience.

There is a document on the web that shows how the roles are being defined and I would be happy to introduce/explain/discuss this at a meeting and welcome your input. More info can be found on this link: <https://www.wimga.org/resources>



Shirley Audetat Earns a Special State MGV Award

Shirley has been a MGV in Grant County since 2012. She resides in rural Bloomington along with her husband Rick. Shirley has beautiful home gardens beginning with a display of bulbs in spring and changing perennials throughout the summer season into fall. Shirley works seasonally at the Hummingbird Gardens Greenhouse located next to Sugar and Spice south of Fennimore. An ASK A MGV booth was set up there one year and Shirley rounded up volunteers to work in the tent. Three years in a row Shirley recruited MG volunteers to share their knowledge on a specific topic by scheduling workshops. The Lancaster Garden Club, which Shirley is a member of, asked her to apply her design skills for the layout of the Lancaster Library gardens after the building addition. Shirley extensively researched layout ideas for the gardens and as president of the club continues to coordinate Lancaster Garden Club members for various summer tasks such as watering and weeding. This

very talented lady has used gardens, flowers and nature as a subject for her photography displaying her work at our MGV conference. Shirley created a You-tube video featuring the Fairy Gardens at Katie's Community Garden in Platteville. We can count on Shirley to donate plants each year to our May sale. Shirley displayed her educational board about propagating Coleus at our past conference and at the annual plant sale.

A total of 2,500 hours of volunteer work earned Shirley a special award plaque from our State of Wisconsin MGV program office.



MGV Project June updates throughout Grant County

The Boscobel Food Wise Project has two raised beds each measuring 8 by 4 feet. Chris Swan has reported the wood cost was \$90.00. Chris is very pleased with the cooperative effort of all parties involved. With all the rain, watering has not been an issue! If you in the area, you can view the gardens just behind the Boscobel Food Pantry.



The Fennimore Doll Museum is progressing as reported by Marsha Schneider. You may recall her request for a small toy for the Doll Museum Sign. A community member donated a small rocking horse, which found a home under the entrance sign. Marsha is going to highlight flowers incorporating the horse. Marsha has begun collecting plants for a butterfly garden. Her quest for dirt is still underway. If you have a suggestion of where Marsha can get a load of dirt, let her know!



Lancaster Golf Course Beautification Project has planted an enormous tiered bed just to the left of the golf course building. Corey is in charge of this project but had many helpers: Jean Hopkins, Connie Landon, Nancy Mergen, Karin Peacock and Bruce and Judy Vesperman. They met again to plant a smaller area under the dining room window. Corey received a \$500 budget from the city of Lancaster. The golf course crew is in charge of watering and weeding.

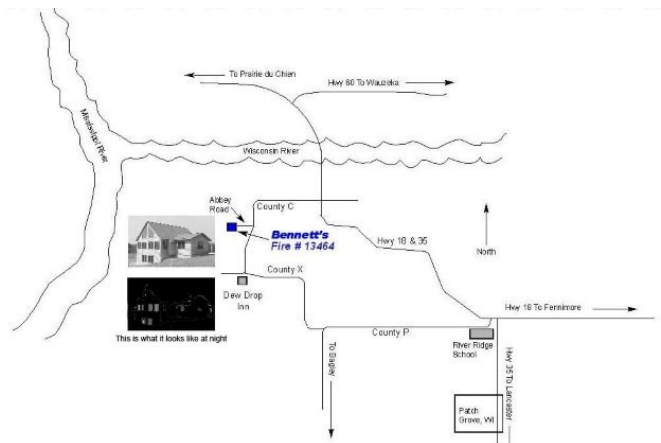
Katie's Community Garden is looking fine. Kathy Kopp wrote a nice paragraph in her monthly chamber report recognizing MGVS who care for garden plots. These ladies are Julie Pluemer, Karin Peacock, Kathy Kubitz, Myleen Bass and Betty Smith. While working at the gardens, Betty Smith recently encountered a lady visitor. The visitor hugged Betty and thanked her for volunteering. The visitor expressed how much she enjoys regular walks at Katie's and enjoys all the beautiful flower gardens. In Betty's words, "This is what makes my volunteering worth it." If you have not taken time to walk these gardens, they are along the path, which is part of the Platteville Arboretum Trail. Park at the Platteville Chamber on HWY 151 and you are only a few feet away from the gardens.

POP-UP MGVS EVENT JULY 21 PRAIRIE GARDEN

Marjie Bennett and her husband Rick are inviting MGVS to view their Prairie Gardens on Saturday, July 21 beginning at 3:00PM. This is the prime viewing date for the flowers. Gary Eldred who founded the Prairie Enthusiasts organization will be a guest and along with Marjie and Rick will answer questions. The tour will be approximately one hour long. Please bring a folding chair, bug spray and sun protection. Since parking is limited, please consider carpooling. Marjie would like all to RSVP to prepare. Contact her by phone

608-996-2260, text, or e-mail

marjiebennett@hotmail.com. Marjie is our newest MGVS trained in the winter of 2018.



Hugel-What?



Hugelkultur is a method of growing a garden on top of old decaying wood. Chris Swan presented +this idea at our MGV training two years ago. Here are her very successful photos of her gardening with Hugelkultur. For all of us attending the training, this was a new concept. Chris shared how one day she was at the library and read about it in a magazine. Since they had a supply of decaying wood, Chris wanted to experiment with this type of garden. Read more about this method named by German Horticulturist but used for over 2000 years! <https://inhabitat.com/diy-hugelkultur-how-build-raised-permaculture-garden-beds/>



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



Terry Wood, President

Myleen, Editor