

July 2020 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



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July 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.

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Good News:

We have gotten the permission to return to some activities, but not all at this time!

Since COVID-19 is worldwide, the state guidelines are making sure that we are being careful on how we proceed. Since we are unsure how the future is going to play out, we need to be cautious about the public places where we have our projects or events. Our volunteers must be safe and we need to follow the guidelines if you choose to work on projects or hold events.

Shirley and Karin will be happy to work with you on completing the form that is attached, which we will send to Amanda for approval. Additional information can be found on this link re the COVID-19 Updates for the Wisconsin Master Gardener

Program, <https://wimastergardener.org/2020/03/20/halt-to-master-gardener-program-volunteer-activities-2/>

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.webly.com/online-reporting---forms--reports.html>

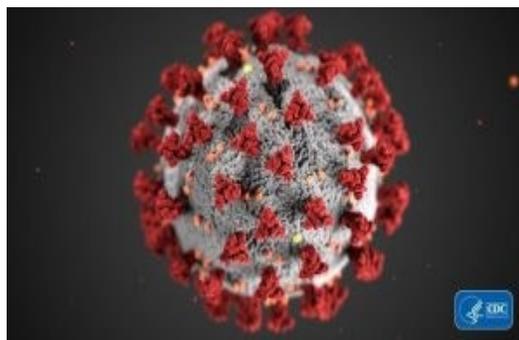


COVID-19 Updates for the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program – Master Gardener Program

COVID-19 Updates for the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program. Published on 2020-03-20 2020-06-12 by Mike Maddox [Updated on June 10, 2020]

Your patience is greatly appreciated as we respond to the crisis caused by COVID-19.

www.wimastergardener.org



Chris Swan's Project at the Divine Rehab in Fennimore

We have all been affected by COVID-19, but nursing home residents who have been quarantined to their rooms since mid-March are beginning to suffer from the vary actions meant to protective them. Isolation and boredom are not good for any of us. As an employee of Divine Rehabilitation and Nursing in Fennimore, I was given the opportunity to brighten up their day by transforming a barren courtyard flower bed into a bit of joy and sunshine. Both my parents and my grandmother spent their last days at this facility, so this gave me a chance to pay something forward.

The area in need of restoration was a well-established oval of about fifteen by thirty feet with a mature large Honey Locust tree at the center providing dappled shade. The garden had a few lack-luster perennials and some aging Barberry bushes surrounded the tree. A Sand Cherry bush was retained as an accent bush and will come to life with a bit of pruning. I mentioned to our county Master Gardener president that I might be looking for some plant donations to provide seasonal color for the residents and their families to enjoy. Shirley suggested I apply for a grant from the Grant County Master Gardener chapter which was approved.



Due to the virus threat, I worked solo and pulled out the barberry bushes and dug out some problematic Solomon's Seal. I would find out later that my pruning, grooming, and digging provided several hours of "entertainment" to the residents while I worked.



Past volunteers who had worked on this garden were deterred by a heavy black tarp that covered the entire space under a modest layer of dirt and mulch. Every garden space has its' challenge and I soon discovered there were some challenges with this garden as well. I proceeded to remove some of the tarp to allow the roots to go deeper only to find gravel in some areas.

Filling the large space was not difficult. Thinning my own flower bed gave opportunity to share Bleeding Hearts, Stella De Oro Lily, Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Tall Phlox, Elephant Ear Hosta, Evening Primrose, Anna Belle Hydrangea, Iris,

Sedum and Dahlias. Donations were provided by another Master Gardener and staff at the nursing home as well as a local business which included: Variegated Hosta, Heuchera, Pansies, Day Lilies, Shasta Daisy and Globe thistle. Grant money was used to purchase some plants from Sugar and Spice Green house near Fennimore including Lupine, Speedwell, Joe Pye Weed, Butterfly Weed, Prairie Salvia and a few annuals to give some color in this first transition year until the plants are established.

The project will be continued as a two-year plan. Mulch is yet to be purchased to finish off this first stage of the garden revision. In the fall we hope to plant tulip and daffodil bulbs for an early pop of color for next spring.

There are many retired gardeners and farmers who reside in the rooms facing this garden. Seeing their faces in the window as I dug made the work a little lighter. I am so thankful for the grant from Master Gardener's to brighten up the world of the Residents of Divine Rehabilitation and their families. At this time of quarantine, the only world they see is what is on their TV screen and the view out their window. I believe this new view is going to make their world a whole lot brighter.

Root Box

The root box idea originally came from Rotary Garden in Janesville when we saw their root box during our tour in 2018 bus tour. The root box is for viewing how plants have different roots and growing habits. Once the box is planted it will be a stop for an adventurous child or adult to check out to see the roots grow.

Kathy Kubitz and Carley Borcharding were the photo takers at Janesville, then Crawford County got involved and had Joe Morovitz, volunteer from the Crawford group, build a copy of it for them. I asked if he would build one for us styled like the one Crawford has. I was pleasantly surprised when he said "yes", so supplies were purchased and the root box was installed at Katie's Garden. It seemed so simple!

In reality, it really wasn't that simple because before the install we had to do our homework such as contacting Diggers Hotline because we planned on installing in a area where a bunch of cables are buried by two different electric companies, needed permission from the volunteer who manages the berm where we wanted it plus we needed permission from the Chamber, and most importantly we needed project approval from the county. Also, Donna at Crawford county shared how she used signage and how she planted some plants. The administrative assistant at the Chamber office created our signs and did the lamination. Even the Executive Director helped me one night to fill the box with about 6-8 bags of potting mix. Painting of the box will take place next year.



Ready for the dirt, signs, and plants!



Good thing he brought his saw because we cut off two feet because I said too tall before he planted in the ground.

It was awesome to have all the cooperation and want to thank everyone for all the helping hands to make this root box.



Joe had the right tools for the job!



Joe was very patient on how we wanted it placed at a certain angle.



End result! Taking a peek at the roots!

Kathy Kubitz Photos

Kathy Kubitz has two of her photos on the WIMGA Photo Gallery. Scroll to the bottom of the gallery.

<https://www.wimga.org/gallery> Password: wimga19



News Alert: Our Vice President, Wendy, has been named

“Volunteer of the Year” awarded by Museum Volunteer Board for her contribution of time and expertise given to the new gardens at the Mining Museum.

Congratulations to Wendy on a job well done.

It is nice to get some good news for a change, stay tuned for next month’s newsletter for more information.

Note: A native planting is being added this month to the gardens.

You’re invited to join [Melinda Myers](#) for these Free Virtual Gardening Events in July:

July 15, 2020

Lake Country Virtual Art & Garden Tour & Fundraiser

#9 & #10 Gardens

to benefit The Pewaukee Area Arts Council

Gardening expert, TV/radio host & author Melinda Myers will tour and interview the wonderful gardeners who created these amazing gardens. Watch it all LIVE on Facebook on July 15 at 1:15 & 2:15 p.m. The garden tour is **free this year**, but donations to the [Pewaukee Area Arts Council](#) (PAAC) are appreciated. You can also purchase Garden tour apparel to help support the tour and the PAAC, by [clicking here](#).



11:15 p.m. - #9 Garden

Visitors entering this restored 1860's property will first notice the historic home and potting shed that border the gardener's lovingly tended perennial gardens. She is passionate about her plants, mainly selected to benefit birds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators while nurturing them using organic gardening methods. Feel free to linger here feeling the solace and joy that this garden brings to both humans and wildlife. Melinda will be walking through the garden interviewing the gardener, Jen. Don't miss your chance to get a peek inside this beautiful landscape!

2:15 p.m. - #10 Garden

A private home garden in Sussex surprises visitors as they pass through the home's side gardens to view the back patio's expansive elevated plantings complemented by original art with a forest playground beyond. These elements meld into a unique garden oasis – not your typical suburban backyard. The visual elements offer a welcome respite from the summer's heat with splashes of color and whimsical touches. Melinda will be walking through the garden interviewing the gardeners.

Watch the **FACEBOOK Live Garden Tour with Melinda on 7/15 at 1:15 p.m. & 2:15 p.m.** here: <https://www.facebook.com/pewaukee.council>

The garden tour is **free this year** since it will be virtual, however your support of PAAC and the garden tour would be greatly appreciated. To make a donation to the Pewaukee Area Arts Council, the non-profit organizing the virtual garden tour, [click here](#). You can also purchase Garden tour apparel to help support the tour and the PAAC, by [clicking here](#).

For more information on the other gardens featured in the garden tour with the times you can see them LIVE on Facebook, [click here](#). Melinda's appearance is underwritten by:



July 29, 2020

Milwaukee Public Library's [Virtual Rain Garden Seminar](#)

6 - 7 p.m. central time - Creating a Rain Garden & the Many Benefits - Join gardening expert, TV/radio host & author Melinda Myers to learn how planting a rain garden can help use rainwater where it falls to lower garden maintenance, conserve water, and attract pollinators, while helping reduce the risk of flooding and stormwater overflows.

The webinar is free, but registration is required.

[Register here](#)

The webinar is sponsored by: Diana Paul . dianapaul@wi.rr.com

For gardening tips, videos and more visit www.MelindaMyers.com





Sneak Peek of Shirley's Garden



Sitting in a field of poppies



If those rabbits would only stand this still



Midnight snack for the deer?
Goodness I hope not.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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

Submitted by Shirley Audetat

Myleen, Editor