

March 2018 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



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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

President Elect

Dorothy Price
Dotpricebb@gmail.com
773-474-3590

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

Dates to remember –

We want to encourage you to use the website for information. Rather than list dates, please go to our site

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

Our state calendar and our local events are all listed in calendars on our website. Check them out! Registration for our conference, the Horticulture Workshop and the State MGVC convention are posted.

FREE SERVICE HOURS AVAILABLE, TAKE THEM TIL THERE GONE!

*Do you realize it is already half a year past
for earning your volunteer hours?*

We have exciting opportunities for you to earn hours. The fair chair, Melody Bahr is looking for help planning our fair booth activity and children's educational activity, melody@tds.net. Connie Larson is the new chair for the planning committee. I have done it for four years and resigning. This committee plans the yearly speakers for meetings and plans the November gathering. Connie can be reached at bclarson@tds.net. It is handy to meet in August so our brochure can be ready for November. It takes time to coordinate speaker dates so usually the work is divided among committee members.

Vesperman Farms will again offer pots and plants for children to prepare for a Mother's Day Gift on May 13 during their Mother's Day Breakfast. We begin at 8:30 a.m. and volunteer until the breakfast serving is over. Everything is set up and waiting for you. An assembly line model is used where kids start at one bin and go to the last which is watering. Talk to Judy Vesperman if you have any questions and let her know if you are available to help.

Important Websites for MGVCs:

<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.

An Example of a One and Done Presentation for Volunteer Hours

Learn to Grow

On Saturday, February 10, Karin Peacock, Cindy Arndt, Mary Rasmussen and Nancy Mergen staffed a hands-on project called “Learn to Grow” at the 4-H Family Project Day.

At the “Learn to Grow” table, youth were shown how to propagate succulents from leaves and cuttings, which they potted to take home and could choose several different types of succulents to transplant in a pot to take home. The participants had the opportunity to learn new skills, work with others, and have fun. Over 40 youth left the “Learn to Grow” table with pots they will need to maintain and also had opportunity to build a Mason Bee Can House.

Volunteers were impressed with the enthusiasm of the youth wanting to learn how to grow things and what they could grow with the free seed packets that were offered at our display.



Photo #1 shows Clara Kilian getting final tips from Nancy Mergen about how to care for her succulent plants.

Photo #2 shows Chris Brandemuehl with his succulent plant



DA DA DA



In Russian, this means yes, yes, yes. It was a great informational MGV meeting about Russian history and culture on February 15 by Connie and Brian Larson. Connie was amazed at the rich soil in the city gardens. Many community parks exist in the city among the crowded apartment buildings. Thank you both for sharing your experience and slides of your fall trip.



Free Garden Spots for MGV

I contacted Courtney at the City of Lancaster office. She is willing to let MGV garden there free in any of the spots not rented. Chris Carl (Courtney's grandma) has already donated time there and planted a cover crop last fall to enrich the soil. If you live in Lancaster, please e-mail me your comments about the location of the gardens. In the past we have discussed the rain collection washing out crops and therefore deterring people from renting the grounds. We will discuss the possibilities at the March meeting. Come with ideas or e-mail me!

The Bus is RollingWhere? To Be Determined

We hope to hear a report at our March meeting. Judy Vesperman is chairing the group. Dorothy Price and Ken Kluesner are assisting. Karin Peacock will design the brochure and Connie Larson will collect the money.



Plant Sale—Jumping Worms



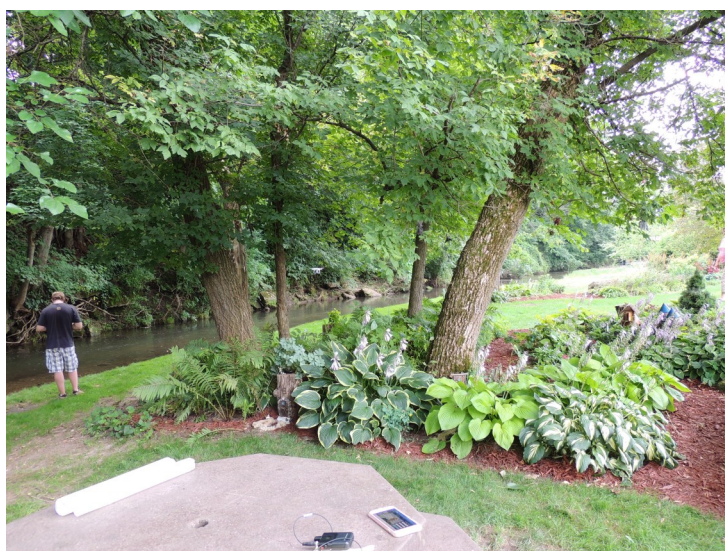
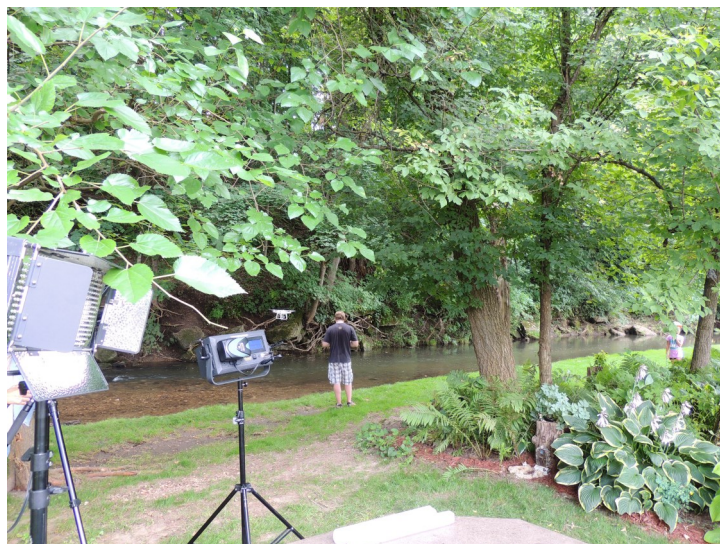
Jumping Worms were discussed at our February meeting. We plan to go ahead with the sale on May 12 and approach it as we did last year by handing out educational materials. Our website has several great references about this invasive worm and how to control the spread of it. We are asking each MGV who donate plants to the sale in May to check their plants carefully, wash off the roots, and pot in clean soil.

March 17 Meeting

Air Plants by Marilyn Brewer, a friend of Dorothy and Doreen is our topic for March. The meeting begins at 6:30PM at the Lancaster Youth and Ag. Building. Refreshments will be served by Shirley and Corey. Is anybody willing to take this on as a display for our April 7 Conference? Another opportunity for you to earn volunteer hours!

Drone In to Discover Wisconsin on May 14

In case you were wondering, the Discover Wisconsin Show will feature Katie's Garden on May 14, 2018. Kathy Kubitz took photos of the drone while they were filming in the summer of 2017.



Terry Wood, President

Myleen, Editor

