

# March 2019 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**

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## **March Meeting held March 14**

The next meeting was changed to the second Thursday to accommodate the Conference Committee for updates to the March 23 Annual Conference. Our speaker Brian Hudelson from the UWEX Madison Plant Disease Lab. Dr. Hudelson will speak at 6:30, refreshments provided by Wendy and Terry afterward with our business meeting to follow.

## **READY, SET, GROW! MARCH 23 CONFERENCE**

The committee has everything in place, now we need to recruit guests! The past has proven word of mouth is the best advertising. You can help by sharing our FB post about the conference to your friends, placing a poster where you visit often, handing out brochures to people you know and telling your friends about the conference. Posters and Conference Brochure copies were sent to all members by Jean Hopkins. Let Jean know if you need paper copies, [hopkinsj@chorus.net](mailto:hopkinsj@chorus.net). The conference information is on our website also. Let's all work to make this the best conference ever!

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

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

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

## **Set Up Times for Conference Displays**

Shirley A. has scheduled the time for display setup on March 22 from 4:30PM until 7:00PM. Saturday morning is available from 7:00AM until 7:15AM. Vesperman's will have the tables covered with white tablecloths. You may add an additional cover to the table for color. Shirley will have a sign for each booth with the name of the display and the MGV. Contact Shirley if you have any questions [saudetat@hotmail.com](mailto:saudetat@hotmail.com).



## February 21 Guest Speaker Sue Krause from Big River Organics



Sue is a very passionate speaker about her business growing Eiscenra Feitida, better known as Red worms. Sue has perfected her process of feeding the worms to produce worm castings which look like coffee

grounds. Her backstory of how she became interested in the topic is an example of how attending a gardening session can inspire new gardeners. It was in her former life as a Madison city officer when her supervisor asks her to attend a session about Community Gardens. Her assigned route included a Community Garden and the idea was for her to participate as a way of giving help to the area she served providing an opportunity for citizens to be engaged in positive interaction with a police officer. Sue became very involved and along the way developed an interest in amending the soil. After researching the topic, she decided to grow Red worms and use the castings to nourish the soil. She began worm farming using plastic tubs kept at her residence. After retirement, Sue moved to Cassville and began Big River Organics. Sue developed her product packaging with sustainability in mind. Sue offered a tour of her facility to our members as a future program.

## 4-H Family Involvement Fair Held February 9

Cindy Arndt, Nancy Mergen, Mary Rasmussen and Terry Wood offered a session on composting that was attended by over 40 youth ages 5 to 15. Nancy provided food scraps, Mary provided cardboard and paper, Terry provided bags, straws, and soil and Cindy provided the markers. The kids worked in groups of 10 for thirty minutes. They were quizzed on what they knew about compost, if they had a garden, and if their family had a compost bin. Benefits of composting were discussed. The kids used



Zoey Udelhoven above cutting her tiny compost pieces for the baggie.

kitchen knives or their gloved hands to turn the scraps and "browns" into small pieces. These were placed in a baggie and a small amount of

soil and water were added. Next they were sealed and a straw was inserted for air. They took the bag home and were instructed to mash it each day. Each child took home an instruction sheet and the formula for making compost. Mary read a book about compost to the group. Cindy noted how the boys were sharing information about composting. One older boy said he would make a compost bin as his 4-H project. Adult 4-H leaders wanted to know if MGVS would be willing to speak to their group. Cindy provided grass cups for the kids to decorate and had extra materials so



Calista Alderson with her completed compost bag. The straw was inserted for air.



Cindy, Nancy and Mary composting fun!

the kids could start their own seed cups at home. The project was very educational and successful based on the enthusiastic composters!

## **All Aboard! the Bus Headed For South Milwaukee on June 22**

Judy V. and Ken K. presented 2019 bus trip information for South Milwaukee on Saturday, June 22. The trip was discussed at our February meeting and the consensus was to move forward with this destination. Earlier information was sent to all members. Judy and Ken will be working out the details with hopes of providing the information at our March 23 conference. In the meantime, save the date and spread the word!

# ALL ABOARD!



## **WIMGA Representative for 2019 and 2020**

### **Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association**

Karin P. was voted as our WIMGA representative. She is invited to attend this associations meetings four times a year. Do not confuse this with our UWEX MGV Program. They are two separate organizations with very different roles. You can read more about WIMGA on our website. You should each begin receiving the WIMGA newsletter 6 times this year beginning in March. You will find summaries of grant monies used throughout Wisconsin. This year, WIMGA is replacing the statewide conference with smaller leadership conferences throughout the state.



## Food Wise to expand to Lancaster Community Gardens



Judy V. and Connie Landon agreed to become part of the Food Wise grant project and plant one bed at the Lancaster Community garden with the fresh produce grown given to the Lancaster Food Pantry! Chris Swan will continue her project at Boscobel. Thanks ladies for joining this statewide program!

## July 20 Youth Day Lancaster Youth and Ag Building

Three MGVS have stepped forward to help with this activity, Karin P., Judy V. and Melanie Reynolds. They will be planning an activity with ages 8-14 in mind. This is a new opportunity for us to serve the youth population of Grant County.



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



## Local Money Awarded



Wendy J. applied for \$250.00 for the Platteville Mining Museum project and was approved at our February 21 meeting. Chris C's project at the Lancaster Community Garden

was also approved for \$250.00. The next chance to approve local money is at our March 14 meeting. You can download a form by visiting our website [grantcountymastergardeners@weebly.com](mailto:grantcountymastergardeners@weebly.com) and look at the left sidebar for forms.

## PLANT SALE PREPARATION BEGINS NOW!



Wendy J., our plant sale chair, reminded us to begin planting bulbs in containers for the plant sale May 11, 2019. We are warning members who have identified jumping worms in their own gardens not to donate plants. Think of other ways you can support the sale by starting bulbs, planting a pussy willow branch, or donating indoor plants.

*Terry Wood, President*

*Myleen, Editor*