

May 2018 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



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May 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.

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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.

Plant Sale May 12, 2018



Our biggest event this month is the Plant Sale on May 12, 2018. If you are helping on that day, please arrive between 7:30AM and 7:50AM. You may drop off plants on Friday, May 11 any time after 1:00PM until 5PM. You may leave them outside the door by the crops building if you need to Friday morning or Friday night. Please remember to post signs along the highway after April 29. They need to be 2ft. from the roadside and cannot be at an intersection. Remove

the signs soon after the sale and return to the Y&AG, to Terry Wood, or our next meeting in June. Remember to use the guidelines on our website for potting and collecting plants. If you did not pick up plant tags at our April meeting, these are available on our website under the Plant Sale side bar. Please ask your friends for plants. If you need help potting or digging, contact Terry or Wendy. We have new prices this year. There will not be a \$1.00 plant so keep this in mind when you are potting.

One and Done Volunteer Projects

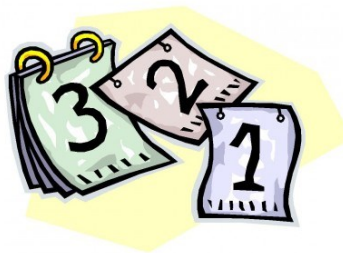
Karin Peacock and Kerry McCabe had a successful evening at the Muscoda Library with 12 people attending their presentation on Container Gardening on April 25.

Melody Bahr and Karin Peacock spoke to a group of 19 at the Mound City Bank, Platteville, about Straw Bale Gardening and Container Gardening on April 26.

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

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

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



**Countdown until
your volunteer
hours are due:**

5 months

May Regular Meeting

The 2017 Planning Committee decided not to hold one this year as most of you help in one way or another at the plant sale. This needs to be decided on a yearly basis.



Ready Set Grow A SUCCESS STORY

The Conference Committee did an excellent job planning our 2018 event according to the 28 surveys collected. Vesperman Farms was rated very highly in food, parking and the venue. March was selected to hold the event again. Speakers all received high ratings. The educational displays received many compliments.

When I initially began this event, the Northern Lights MGV president mentored us through the process. They said it took three years to build a following. My personal thought is this year we changed the location so should we count this as our first year. Now we have a working list to contact yearly. The committee suggestion was to pick a month, date for example the third Saturday in March, and stick with it yearly. The committee recommendation is to stay at Vesperman Farms and continue with a half day as indicated by the surveys returned. You can e-mail me your thoughts and it will be on the June agenda for discussion.

Natasha Rank graciously donated the two flower filled baskets. They added to the decorations and were a hit with the recipients.
Thank you!



THE BUS IS MOVIN'

Look on our website for BUS TRIP registration. Details are posted. The date is July 6 and we will be traveling to THE LAND OF THE GIANT HOSTAS and ROTARY GARDENS. The cost is \$40.00.

Our Conference Committee met on April 19 at 5:00PM. We went over our notes and the surveys. A question came up and we decided to involve all our members in the decision. The past two years our attendance has been between 40-45. **Does the group think we should continue this event each year? We could try a workshop participation format one year and trade off with speakers one year.**

Grant County

Agricultural Educator Hired

Amanda (Patterson) Cauffman's first day of work as the Grant County Agricultural Educator will be May 14. I will be scheduling an appointment early to address the duties of the Grant County MGV mentor. She will be invited to attend a MGV meeting to introduce herself.

MGV PROJECT NEWS

Our MGV board voted to implement this process for project approval:

Step 1 – Inform the President of your volunteer project.

Step 2 – The MGV will introduce their project at the next scheduled meeting. If you are unable to attend, the president will introduce your project.

Step 3 – The MGV will give input. The group can give a recommendation or denial for approval.

Step 4 - MGV president will discuss it with the Agricultural Educator, receive a signature approval and notify the MGV.

Eventually, there will be a form available to guide the above process. During the winter, I reviewed other counties requirements and at the last online coordinator discussion, Mike Maddox gave an example of a project form. I feel it is important to include the Agricultural Agent on this so that will be one of the first tasks I'll ask assistance with before we have a paper form of Project Approval. This process will allow our MGV group to keep track of projects, review each year and share the information. **The UWEX must have a copy of approved projects with a signature by our UWEX mentor! As president, this will be my responsibility.** I need your cooperation in following this process for all volunteer projects going forward. Any that need approval before May 14 will go to the IOWA County Agent.

A Great Project Question

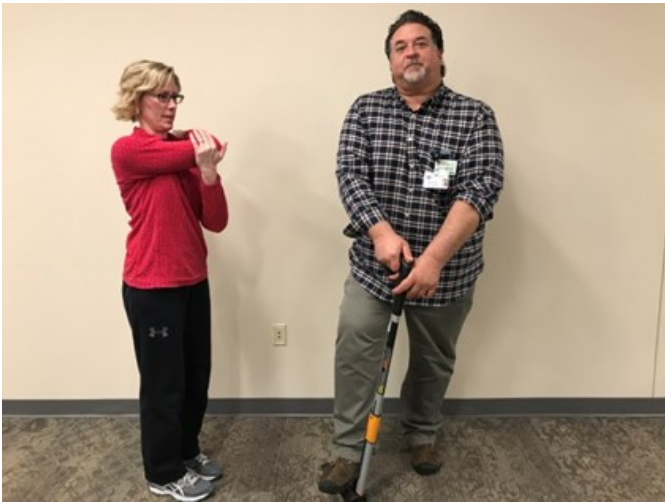
At our April meeting a member asked if projects can still be started. The answer is yes but you need to follow the above steps. During the summer especially, members frequently are asked if they can do a presentation for a library or a community group. Recent examples of this is Corey's May 8 planting day at the Lancaster Hospital and Karin P. and Kerry M. Boscobel library presentation. These will now go to Gene at Iowa County to approve. Wendy has a project in mind and is meeting with Park Place to gather information about what the project might entail. She will report back to us. I am working with our newest MGV, Marjie Bennet, on the details of her request to work at a food garden in Dodgeville and hosting Prairie Tours this summer before she brings it to the group.

Volunteer Opportunities

- ≈ May 8, contact Corey Weydert for planting salad and salsa bowls at the Lancaster Hospital. Sessions are from 11:30AM-Noon and 12:30-1PM.
- ≈ May 13 contact Judy Vesperman for helping with the children's potting for Mother's Day breakfast at Vesperman Farms. Beginning time is 8:30AM and ends before noon.
- ≈ End of May, Chris Swan will be cooperating with the Early Head start program planting vegetables for harvest. This project will be sustained by a yearly FoodWise grant. Plans are developing to begin preparing the spot soon.
- ≈ Chris Carl is working with the Lancaster Community Gardens to develop a plan for the use of the garden. We have discussed this at meetings but need to work out details before we recommend approval. Call Chris with your ideas!
- ≈ A member for the planning committee.
- ≈ A member for the fair committee.

MGV Stretching Out

Twenty attended our April 19 meeting. Corey and Wendy were excellent leaders and demonstrated the correct way to stretch before and after gardening to avoid sore muscles and injuries. Attendees had the opportunity to ask about their particular body aches. Back, hand, and knee problems were the most often overused muscles among members. I think Corey and Wendy are ready to present at the Madison Expo!



Corey demonstrated adaptive tools for gardening. Thanks Corey for arranging the Lancaster Hospital facility, which we all appreciated. A new term evolved *Garden Therapist* from our group. Corey is the Director of the Lancaster Hospital Physical Therapy Department and Wendy works as an Assistant to Orthopedic Doctors in Dubuque. We are very fortunate to have these Specialists in our MGV group! We thank you both.



Bench For Weeding



This is the small bench I use for weeding. It has been rebuilt many times because it is just the perfect size for me. The dimensions of this or 12 1/2 high by 13 1/2 wide the top is 17 x 11 and the handle is 4 inches. I use a pad under my knees and flop over this and weed away. It is much better for me than a chair height would be.

Marilyn Aebersold



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



Terry Wood, President

Myleen, Editor