

October 2018 Newsletter

Grant County Master Gardeners



Volume 1, Issue 9

October 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

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Volunteer Hours Due

Terry will print them out if you e-mail them to her woodfam@centurytel.net. Or mail to Wood, 75 Preston Dr. Platteville, WI 53811. My responsibility is to review each volunteer form then transfer the data to a state recording form. **This is submitted once I have ALL MEMBERS HOURS. In other words, one late volunteer sheet can hold back the 99% who were timely! Don't be that dude!** Ten dollars covers our local dues and WIMGA dues and can be sent directly to Connie Larson. Once I am done with the individual volunteer forms, these are stored at the UWEX office.

Wonderful World of Bats



Our next meeting is Thursday, October 18 at the Youth and Ag building. Our Program will begin at 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be followed by our MGV business meeting. Kent Borcharding will be presenting BATS, ONE OF OUR MISUNDERSTOOD AND BENEFICIAL MAMMALS. Home gardeners will learn the value of bats for insect control and bat guano, one of the best garden and lawn fertilizers. Kent's bat house projects have been in 30 newspapers from the SEATTLE TIMES to the NEW YORK TIMES.

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

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

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

Upcoming Events



Grant Regional Health Center Open House, Sunday, Oct. 14. from 1:00-4:00PM. Corey will be responsible for the seasonal change over planting of two large containers at the entrance. Enter the facility at 507 S. Monroe St., Lancaster, WI. 53813. <https://www.grantregional.com/>



Project Update



Marsha S.'s search for dirt is over! The butterfly garden is starting to happen! Thanks to all who have contributed to date. Special acknowledgement to Peter James for soil and to Dereck Zimple for delivering, Grant County Master Gardeners, and all who invested their time to help. Other contributors to our summer gardens included: Fennimore Livestock & Exchange, Hummingbird Haven, & Hillside Nursery. Seeking Donations for plants, butterfly house, mulch, etc.!

HEALTHY FUTURE HEALTHY SOIL a community conversation

The Main St. Sustainability committee and UWP Office of Sustainability are hosting a soils event. The same presentation will be available on 2 nights: Monday Oct. 15 and Tuesday Oct. 16. It will be held in the Community Room at the Platteville Public Library from 6:15- 8:15PM. There will be video clips, informational slides, representatives from local conservation efforts, and a discussion time.

Food, especially healthy food, is a topic that concerns everyone. In today's world we have a wonderful variety of foods to pick from and many places to shop. But, are we getting the nutrition we expect from the foods we eat? Are the methods used in agriculture going to keep up with the



growing population and increasing demand for food? The basis of food production is soil. At this event we will explore the connection between healthy soil and healthy people and invite guests to learn about local groups taking action to improve soil health and learn practical ways to improve soil through daily actions. After the program there will be time for questions and discussion. To request disability accommodations, contact Amy Seeboth-Wilson, UW-Platteville Sustainability Coordinator (608) 342-7244 | seebotha@uwplatt.edu



GRANT COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

FRONT



BACK



ALL ORDER FORMS DUE: October 18th, 2018

Item Letter	Size	Qty.	Price Each	Optional Name or Number + \$5 ea. per garment	Total
			\$		\$
			\$		\$
			\$		\$
			\$		\$
			\$		\$

TOTAL:		\$
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Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **IMPRINTS**

☐ check

☐ cash



EMBROIDERY • SCREENPRINT • NOVELTIES

Please be sure to select A for short sleeve or B for long sleeve. The order can be dropped off at the UWEX office, mailed to Jenny Dixon, 916 Elm St., Lancaster, WI. or bring to the Oct. 18 meeting! Questions? Contact Terry Wood NOTE CHECKS MADE OUT TO IMPRINTS

Save your seeds!

At our September meeting we voted to give away seeds from our gardens on the March 23, 2019 MGVC garden conference. The committee will design the packaging of the seeds, they just need you to save them.

Seed Saving Tips		Grow your favorite plants again, save money, trade seed and preserve plant diversity.
Beans	Let the pods age on the vine until they turn brown. You can also store the entire plant (with roots) upside down in a warm area until pods dry out. Cross-pollination could affect the purity of your bean seeds in the future. Pole beans are more likely to cross.	<p>The table to the left lists several popular annual vegetables and fruits with easy-to-save seeds and a lower potential for cross-pollination in the home garden. They flower and mature seed in the same year. General advice is given to maintain as much seed purity as possible when plants are more prone to cross.</p> <p>Please seek out other references to enhance your knowledge of seed saving.</p> <p>Seed Saving Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Save seeds from heirloom or open pollinated (OP) plants only if you want them to stay true. Hybrid seed will not produce the same plant again. ~Choose the healthiest plants and the largest seeds. ~Air dry seeds on a fine screen or paper away from direct sunlight and as quickly as possible to reduce contamination. ~Label seed (drying and storage). ~Use containers that limit moisture. ~Drying may not be necessary if planting soon after collection.
Cantaloupe	Best time to collect seed is when the stem dies and the fruit separates easily. Remove the membranes from the seed by rinsing and gently rubbing with your fingers.	
Cucumber	Harvest seed when cucumbers are fully ripe and yellowed (too ripe for eating).	
Lettuce	Let seed pods dry on the plant. Bag the plant to capture the seeds because they progressively fall off from bottom to top. Do not save seed from plants that bolt too soon. The seed you save may produce plants that go to seed prematurely.	
Peas	Wait until the plant dies and collect the seeds. Peas do not cross-pollinate.	
Peppers	Best time to collect seed is when peppers are full color and beginning to shrivel. Brush off the seeds from the inside stem and let dry. Peppers of the same species could cross. Grow one hot type and one sweet type to prevent cross-pollination.	
Pumpkin	Remove seeds three weeks after harvesting the pumpkin. Varieties within the same species can cross. Rinse off membranes and dry well.	
Squash (Summer)	Harvest seed when the squash has a hard skin and is too ripe to eat. Hold the seeds under water and rinse off the membrane. Avoid cross-pollination-do not plant these species together: Cucurbita Pepo, Cucurbita Moschata, Cucurbita Maxima and Cucurbita Mixta.	
Sunflower	Most sunflowers are hybrids. Save heirloom seeds if you want the flower to stay true. Hang flower heads upside down by a short length of stalk in a cool, dry spot. Once dry, remove the seeds and keep dry until planting.	
Tomato	Save seed when fruit is full color and firm, but still tender to the touch. Remove the protective gel covering the seed. Cross-pollination may occur with wild or currant tomatoes but most popular types will not cross. Ensure space between plants.	
Watermelon	Remove fibers and membranes by rinsing. When dropped in a glass of water, viable seeds will sink to the bottom. Seeds that float may not germinate well.	

SAVE THE DATES

March 23, 2019 is booked at Vesperman's for our Fourth Convention! May 11, 2019 is our Plant Sale and May 10 is the set up date.

PLANT SALE 2019

I have been walking through my garden noting what plants to divide and donate for the 2019 plant sale. There is enough room in my garden so I start a row with plants and shrubs that I will donate. I find it is much easier for me to do this in the fall then in the busy spring. So far, I have Hydrangeas, Peonies, Spirea, and a few miscellaneous items. You might consider doing this in your garden! Remember to save bulbs also!



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



Terry Wood, President

Myleen, Editor