

# October 2019 Newsletter

## Grant County Master Gardeners



Volume 1, Issue 9

October 2019

*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

#### Vice President

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#### Secretary

Connie Landon  
gpahomer@hotmail.com  
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Connie Larson  
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### Important Websites for MGVs:

<http://wimastergardener.org>

[https://  
learningstore.extension.wisc.edu](https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu)

[https://www.wpr.org/programs/  
garden-talk](https://www.wpr.org/programs/garden-talk)

<https://www.wimga.org/>

[http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/  
insectlab/](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/)

<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>



## October 17, 2019 GCMGV Meeting

6:30PM South Room, Youth and Ag Building, Lancaster

Program meeting by Connie Larson. Flower pounding is a technique that allows flower, leaf, seed or even bark dyes to be transferred to a piece of pre-treated fabric using a hammer or mallet. A handout on the technique will be provided along with a pre-treated piece of muslin fabric. Participants are asked to bring flower heads (such as mums, asters begonias, pansies), berries, colorful leaves (such as maple, sumac, coleus) and hammer or mallet, if possible. However, mallets and hammers will be available to use also. The technique will first be demonstrated. Participants will be able to create their own flower pounding creation following the demonstration. (No fee for the workshop)

Refreshments will be served and business meeting to follow.

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Two things to **Add** to your To Do List if not completed yet:

Report Your Hours: Use this link - <https://wimastergardener.org/report-your-hours/>

Send dues - to Connie Larson - \$10 payable to GCMGA

**Dues:** You can mail your dues or pay them at Oct. 17th meeting, send to Connie's home address: 5913 Dietrich Heights, Cassville, WI 53806. You may make the check to Grant County Master Gardeners Association (GCMGA). Thank you.

***Thanks** for responses for the web page survey. I have already made some changes using the comments I received. Watch for more editing later in the year. Karin*

## Dubuque county Master Gardener hosting a fall workshop!

Saturday, October 5 from 7:15AM to noon in Dubuque

Additional information on workshops and pre-registration can be found at by calling (563) 583-6496 or by visiting - <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/content/fall-workshop>.

## **WIMGA NEWS: INVITE FROM Becky Gutzman WIMGA President**

*Welcome to fall, everyone!*

The WIMGA Board is looking forward to see you at the Fall Face-to-Face Local Representatives meeting:

Saturday, October 26, 2019

10AM to 3PM

Dreyfuss Center on the UW-Stevens Point campus

1015 Reserve Street Stevens Point, WI

There will be refreshments when you arrive; lunch will be on your own, but the cafeteria is just downstairs from the Legacy Room where we are meeting. WIMGA's annual meeting will be held, and there will be two speakers for continuing education:

- In the morning, Bernie Williams from the WI-DNR will be bringing us the latest updates on the jumping worm situation and what we as Master Gardeners can do about it.
- In the afternoon, Dr. Paul Whitaker, Professor of Biological Sciences at UW-Marathon County will address Climate Change and Its Impacts on Gardening in Wisconsin.

You may bring other members with you—we can take up to 100 people for this meeting, but I do need to know how many are coming for the morning refreshments. Please RSVP by Friday October 18.

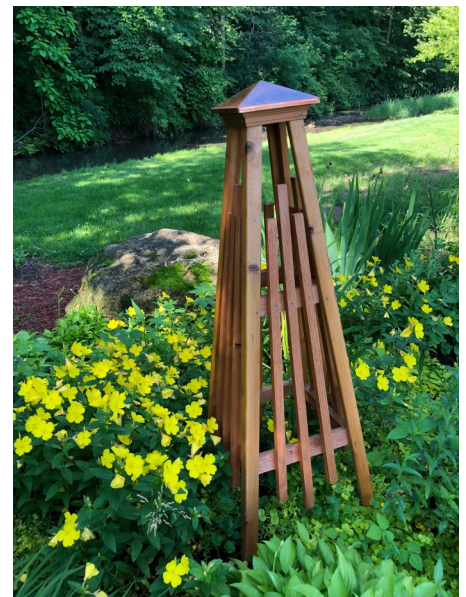
Thanks,

Becky Gutzman WIMGA President

Contact Karin for carpooling. So far we have Donna from Crawford so there is room for more!

## **WIMGA GRANT REPORT 2019**

Grant County used their \$100 grant to enhance the program and projects at Katie's Garden, Platteville. The funds went toward purchase of three obelisks that are on display. Since this is our 15-year anniversary, we wanted to use the obelisks for enhancing the aesthetics for attractive displays. Our educational gardens place emphasis on a rain garden, sensory pots, edible plants, fairy garden, and pollinators. Six master gardeners placed and maintain plants to attract pollinators, hummingbirds, and butterflies. These gardens are the gateway to the Platteville Community Arboretum Trail; consequently, it draws a diverse group of visitors throughout the seasons because it offers something for everyone's viewing and admiration. The impact is hard to measure when located in an area that is open to the public 24/7 but we hear positive feedback from visitors when our gardeners are working in their gardens. The site of the gardens are adjacent to the Regional Chamber Office and the obelisks have enhanced the appearance of the gardens for all visitors. During ideal weather conditions, we have 2,000 people view the gardens per week. Imagine 15 years ago this area was a dumping area overgrown with brush and now it is a showcase for the community and all are benefiting from the enhanced look in the gardens. Thank you for your support in our efforts and the Grant County Master Gardener Association wishes to extend an invite to visit southwest Wisconsin and Katie's Garden. Karin Peacock, Coordinator



## Belmont Fair on September 14-15

The main attraction to our display was the approximately 1,000 free seed packets. Shirley said they were a big hit! It certainly was the place to get free vegetable and flower seeds.

Shirley Nordorft, with 20-years experience as chair of the Hobby Room, appreciates our contribution and said it adds diversity to the Hobby Room. This year we had current information on the jumping worms and resource material about our organization.



## Mitchell-Roundtree Stone Cottage on Sept. 25

<https://grantcountyhistory.org/>

The work project went very well – three volunteers and a helpful neighbor did some major clean up and planted two shrubs in two hours. Shirley Bowden, president of the executive board of the Grant County Historical Society, appreciated our help and treated us to subs and delicious chocolate bars. We discussed what plants and trees they could plant at this heritage site.



Shirley showing a visitor the seed packets we are offering. The seeds brought a lot of foot traffic to our display.



## Farmer's Market Platteville, September 29, 8AM - Noon

As reported by Connie Landon:

It was a cloudy, windy, cold, dreary day, but we enjoyed each other's company and visited with new people. The crowd was pretty small, but because we were the only ones giving away free stuff, we had people stop. We probably had about 20 people stop at our stand. We ended up giving the last of our seeds we had with us that morning to an Amish lady next to us. She was very appreciative and was going to share them with her family members.

Melody gave a lot of information to a gal

inquiring for her father who lives in Waukesha who wants to start a prairie flowers/butterfly garden. She was very appreciative

**When planning a presentation or display booth,** we have support material for displaying that we have stored at the Extension Office. We are in process of setting up a tool box for presentations.

The chalkboard sign is in the back storage room.

We also have two tri-fold tabletop display boards ideal for a tabletop exhibit at a trade show or other special events with carry cases. Three panels front and back have black Velcro backing. One is 72 x 36 inches, other one is 54 x 30 inches.

One of the display boards should have photos attached showing alternative type gardening styles.

Handouts and brochures are available in a handy carrying case. You may want to check to see what is on hand before reproducing resources.



**From Connie Landon:** I just wanted to let you guys know that I am storing the kids size standin' photo wooden structure (not sure what the proper name is!!) in the lower level of my house, along with our banner and the two step stools. We used it Saturday morning at the Platteville Farmers Market. I have plenty of room and don't mind storing it. If someone else wants it, just let me know.



## Jumping Worms

Native to East Asia, jumping worm was found in Wisconsin in 2013. Jumping worms feed on soil organic matter, leaf litter and mulch and create very grainy-looking and hard little pellets when they excrete. The 'changed' soil resembles large coffee grounds, and has poor structure for plants to grow in. Also, the worms feed on the organic matter that plants, fungi and bacteria need for nutrients, removing much of it from the soil ecosystem.

The worms are parthenogenetic, producing eggs without the need for a mate, so just one worm can start a new population. Jumping worms resemble regular earthworms (which are also not native here) but there are some important differences. Unlike other earthworms, they don't produce slime and are more gray or brown in color than pink. Their clitellum, the band of lighter-colored tissue near the head is smooth, not raised like other earthworms and whitish, not pink. The body is more turgid as well.

Jumping worms get their name from their behavior—when handled, they thrash violently, may jump into the air or shed their tails. Adults die in winter, but their larvae overwinter as microscopic cocoons in the soil or leaf litter (which is why you don't see them right away in spring). After hatching in late June, each worm begins reproducing; their life cycle lasts 60 days, so we can have two generations easily each year. (Written by Lisa Johnson, Dane County Horticulture Educator).



*Save The Date!*

### **Grant County Master Gardener Volunteers Fifth Annual Spring Gardening Conference**

*Ready, Set, Grow!*  
**Speakers**

Kristen Conley – organic vegetable gardening

Jason Funkhouser- locally grown flowers from field to vase

Brian Hudelson – Plant Disease Diagnostics

Doug Cheever – Ground Cover in SW WI

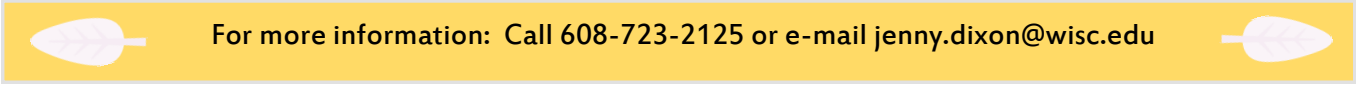
Vesperman Farms

8149 Stage Road

Lancaster, WI 53813

Saturday, March 21, 2020

7:30AM-12:45PM



For more information: Call 608-723-2125 or e-mail [jenny.dixon@wisc.edu](mailto:jenny.dixon@wisc.edu)



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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

*Submitted by Karin Peacock  
Myleen, Editor*