

October 2020 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



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The Extension Master Gardener Program educates, empowers, and supports volunteers to use University research-based info to extend the Wisconsin idea, making a positive difference in lives and communities.

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Important Websites for MGVs:

<http://wimastergardener.org>

<https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu>

<https://www.wpr.org/programs/garden-talk>

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

<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/>

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

<http://grantcountymastergardeners.webly.com/online-reporting---forms-reports.html>



Fall - It is this time of year to watch the pretty leaves falling like snow, kids jumping in leaves and the smells of nature going to bed.

As we bring our plants into the house, make sure to take the dry leaves off the tops of your plants, give them a good bath, and spray them for bugs. I have found Systemic Granules help with this; it comes in a liquid form also. (Do not use on vegetables or herbs) Here are some links for what to look for and how to help.

<https://www.almanac.com/pest/fungus-gnats>

<https://www.almanac.com/news/gardening/gardening-advice/how-bring-outdoor-plants-indoors>



To better acquaint us with our new members Ellen, Sue, Amy and Mary, they have compiled a little bio on themselves. Welcome to our group ladies.

Ellen Acierno, I grew up in Milwaukee, but have lived all of my adult life in Platteville. My husband David and I have four kids and two bonus kids. Caitlin is 24, Ivan is 23 (and boyfriend Zach), Lexi is 22 (and husband Barak) and Sam is 21. Ellen teaches German and French at Dubuque Senior High School. She decided to do the Master Gardener Training because, "Now that my kids are grown and

flown, I want to pursue some new hobbies. My other hobby is reading WW2 fiction."

Sue Neuser - Sue lives in Platteville with her Chocolate Lab, Trooper. Hartig Drugs employ Sue as a pharmacist in Dubuque supplying long-term care residents. She is an Avid fan of the Brewers and Packers. She became a Master Gardener with her sister to learn to grow



beautiful gardens and be able to volunteer in our community. I also enjoy growing and eating my own vegetables.

Amy Seeboth-Wilson - Amy, her husband, 2 children (4 and 13), 5 chickens, and new puppy live in Platteville, WI. She enjoys both vegetable and ornamental gardening and frequently makes use of native plants in her gardens. When not gardening, cooking from her garden, or enjoying time with her family, she is the Sustainability Coordinator at UW-Platteville where she helps strengthen campus' environmental legacy through natural land management, waste minimization, energy conservation, and promoting active transportation. She serves on the RENEW Wisconsin board of directors, the City of Platteville Planning Commission, and has a master's degree in Urban Planning from UW-Madison. She is very excited to find a group of people who enjoy gardening as much as she does!

Mary Penn- *"Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow? With silver bells and cockle shells, and pretty maids all in a row."*

My name is Mary Penn and I work at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville part-time as a Sustainability Associate in the Office of Sustainability. I manage the campus' Edible Garden, an outdoor garden laboratory for students, staff, and faculty, growing vegetables, fruit, flowers, and herbs. I also plant and manage a number of garden beds on campus, incorporating only Driftless native plants in conventional landscape designs, assisted by student workers who have a passion for working outdoors and learning to garden.

I have gardened since 1986 when I stumbled upon the catalog "Roses of Yesterday and Today" and was hooked. My first gardening successes were those most simple of plants: Nasturtium Cherry Rose and the Rose "Hansa". Initially my focus was heirloom, once blooming roses, later expanding to include historic irises, heirloom spring bulbs (tulips, daffodils, and the like), and over the past 4 years, plants native to the Driftless region's prairies and savannas.

A year ago, I moved away from a garden I had developed over 15 years to a place with lots of grass, some foundation plants, and two trees. As a result, I have been quite busy for the past year. My home garden inspires my "work" garden on campus and vice versa, so much so that I am now considering where to fit a hoop house for vegetable production at home! I'm in that very enviable position of having a job which allows me the luxury to not only indulge my passion, but also the opportunity to teach students how to plant, care for, and harvest vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers

My gardening goals are to grow pollinator support plants, fragrant heirloom/historic plants, zone 4 and 5 natives, collect and read gardening books from 1900 to 1940, and have as little lawn as possible. In support of these goals, I decided pursuing Master Gardener certification would be a great way to learn more, particularly grafting, seed starting, and propagation techniques. Accomplishing my certification will be another tool in my garden trug to help me both at home and work.

Find Coordinator Update Information at:

<http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com/coordinator-update-info.html>



We are going virtual with the Spring Conference this year. We will need volunteers for advertising and input. Also looking for display people again. Mini presentations of 5-10 minutes. More on this to be discussed at our meeting this month by Zoom on Oct 15 at 6:30PM. Please try to join us for this meeting.

Janesville Rotary Garden

New landscaping is going in at the Janesville Rotary Garden this year by famous Dutch designer Piet Oudorf. This sounds like a bus trip in the making for next year. Then again, maybe 2022....

<https://www.gardenista.com/posts/10-garden-ideas-to-steal-from-superstar-dutch-designer-piet->



We have been talking about how to get the younger generation involved in the MG program. Please read this month's Vibe newsletter. There are important articles included this month along with a survey. Mike would like you to please forward to anyone who fits this category so we can

SURVEY: Take it and share around to help the program

We're striving to make the program better in the ways you told us matter to you. *One thing you overwhelmingly said mattered: We need to get new people involved in this great program.*

This survey is a step toward that goal. The information we get from it will help us make the program fit the needs of people of different ages and availabilities.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Here is how:

Share the survey link: Please share the survey link with people you know... especially younger adults! (We'll be sending this information around in a separate email so you can easily forward it to people you know.)



Here is the survey link:

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3py4JUINQQ6VCd

What does younger mean? Our target audience for "younger adults" is 18-45.

Send it to your neighbors, kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, coworkers- anyone! We are looking to cast a big net.

Take the survey yourself! We always wish to know more about what works best for you. Keep in mind, this survey is geared towards people who aren't already MGVs but your responses are still valuable.

Wisconsin Horticulture Update Schedule

The Wisconsin Horticulture Update has concluded for 2020. You can still access previous sessions via the link below.

I missed it! Can I watch the recording?

Yes! All the past recordings are found on that important link. You click on the YouTube link next to the date you missed to get to the recording. Here it is again:

[Wisconsin Horticulture Update dates, agenda, YouTube links, and instructions](#)

When I first connected to this link I truly missed not hearing what was coming our way from up north and the diseases which took over our plants. These are worth watching this winter. Some of the solutions can help with early detection in the Spring, so problems don't get out of hand. Brian and PJ do an excellent job in explaining all of this.

Six Rivers Food Pantry

In February 2020, Donna Peterson, UW-Extension Coordinator for Food-Wise programs, met with a small group of volunteers and the director of the Six Rivers Food Pantry in Cassville, Wisconsin. The process to apply for funding to build and begin a raised bed garden on the grounds of the building where the food pantry is in Cassville were discussed. The Six Rivers Food Pantry is located on one side of a building owned by the Village of Cassville, and the other side is used by a nurse practitioner from Grant County Clinic. The group was given a tour of the food pantry products that are available there.

Donna Peterson explained the process to apply for a grant to initiate a raised bed on the grounds of the facility. Grant funds could be used for lumber to construct the bed, soil, plants, and/or equipment for watering and weeding. One of the requirements is a Master Gardener is required to serve on the committee helping gather costs for the grant and implementation if funds are received. Connie Larson, member of Grant Country Master Gardeners volunteered to research costs of material and submit the grant proposal to Donna Peterson. A staff member from Six Rivers Karen Bryant also would help with the process. Grant application was submitted in March which was also the time the COVID-19 virus closed schools, changed lives, and the grant process came to a halt.

In June Donna notified the Six Rivers Food Pantry that it would receive some grants toward building the raised bed which would be 4' by 8'. A hose and storage box could also be purchased as well as plants and soil. However, any hand tools because they might be used by more than one person were not eligible for purchase. Connie Larson contacted Great River Hardware Hank store in Cassville with a list and the cost of items that could be purchased through the hardware store. With the help of Mike Shields who ordered the lumber and had some of the other materials on hand. However, the one problem was that it was to be cedar lumber which would be shipped from logging companies in the



West. Those companies had also decreased production and many places were experiencing lumber shortages also. Seems like there was a surge in gardening projects which is great!

Toward the end of July materials came. They were delivered to Connie Larson in Cassville whose husband graciously cut the wood, took it to the garden spot, and built the bed. Much appreciated were also some vegetable plants donated by Sugar and Spice of Fennimore, Wisconsin. Other plants were obtained by Connie Larson. The plants are in even though it was late in the season, but there will be an opportunity to plant some cool weather vegetables.

All things considered as the saying goes, thanks to Donna Peterson, Connie and Brian Larson, and Karen Bryant who have donated their time and energies to this project.



President and Vice President Nominations needed

This month is nomination time for president and vice president.

Wendy and I have served our terms and now it's time for someone else to step up and take the lead. Don't say you can't because if I can do it anyone will be able to do it. Some of you, most of you, have had experience with computer programs, deadlines, writing email, and leading people. I learned a lot this past year. Delegation being the key and that our members are very good at helping get things done when asked.

Amanda will be sending out information on nominations. One good thing is that you have had experience on Zoom this year and know the protocol of the meetings and projects.

Wendy and I have served our time and NO you cannot switch our roles



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

*Submitted by Shirley Audetat
Myleen, Editor*