

# Master Gardener Update

## November 2018

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<p><b>Websites</b></p> <p><b>UW Extension Rock County:</b> <a href="http://rock.uwex.edu">rock.uwex.edu</a></p> <p><b>RPMGA Blog:</b> <a href="http://rpmga.blogspot.com">rpmga.blogspot.com</a></p> <p><b>Rotary Gardens:</b> <a href="http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org">rotarybotanicalgardens.org</a></p> <p><b>Wisconsin Master Gardener Program:</b> <a href="http://wimastergardener.org">wimastergardener.org</a></p> <p><b>Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA):</b> <a href="http://wimga.org">wimga.org</a></p>	<p>in tunnels in the ground. They will use man-made wooden block houses, bundled stems or tubes, but the holes have to be <math>\frac{1}{4}</math>" in diameter or less.</p>  <p>Once a female finds an appropriate cavity, she begins laying one egg at a time. Each egg gets an offering of nectar and pollen. As part of her nest-building, the bee secretes a waterproof cellophane-like substance to line and seal each cell. The final seal may be at the very end of the cavity, or it may be somewhat recessed, but it will look very reflective and shiny. You can see the remnants of it in the photo at left, showing young masked bees emerging from a hollow stem.</p> <p>You're most likely to find masked bees near woodlands. That's what the Latin name actually means: <i>hylaeus</i> (pronounced hi-LEE-us) translates as "of the woods." They're generalist pollinators whose small size and short tongues allow them to get deep into tubular flowers. But they seem to prefer shallow compound flowers like those found on elderberries, milkweed and Queen Ann's lace. You may also find them on roses, dogbane, blackberries, yarrow, Canada thistle, asters and goldenrod.</p> <p>It takes a lot of patience to photograph masked bees because they move so quickly. Also, use care if you attempt to handle them: they may sting!</p> <p>Masked bees have another sad distinction: seven of the <i>hylaeus</i> species that are native to Hawaii were the first bees to be designated as endangered. Let's hope to do better here.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ruth Flescher</i></p>
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## RPMGA Annual Potluck Dinner, plus Gifts from the Garden

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Rock County Fairgrounds.

On Thursday, November 8 the RPMGA Annual Dinner will be held in the Craig Center at the Rock County Fairgrounds. All MGVs are encouraged to attend and bring guests!

RPMGA will provide roast turkey and gravy, buns, coffee, bottled water, paper plates and plastic cutlery. We're asking that you bring a dish to pass, with serving utensils, preferably something that you and your family enjoy - and even better something from your garden. Bring veggie dishes, sweet treats or whatever is your very best creation!

Come at 5 and schmooze for a half hour before dinner which will begin at 5:30. Meet some of the new master gardener volunteers and catch up with friends you haven't seen for a while.



We're also hoping that members consider making and bringing table decorations that include flowers, grasses, leaves and other vegetation from your gardens.

Following dinner and a short program, we will be holding a hands-on Holiday Gift Workshop. You'll be able to make any of three possible gifts: 1. **Seed tapes.** We'll provide the tape and a selection of vegetable seeds. 2. **Seed bombs.** A clay/compost medium is mixed with seeds and dried. Once the bombs are scattered or planted outdoors and get some water, the seeds sprout into little bits of beauty (see photo, right). If placed outdoors in winter, the bombs are a great way to plant any seeds that need cold treatment! We'll provide the medium and a selection of seeds, including some collected from Rotary Garden's prairie. (Thanks, Mark!) 3. **Packets of seed.** We'll provide envelopes, seed and growing information you can transcribe for the intended recipient.



So we have some idea of how much meat to buy, please contact Mary Thompson (mastergardenermary@gmail.com) or Ruth Flescher (ya-fello2@with the number of people in your party - OR - visit us on Facebook where you can sign in to attend (and add your friends and/or family as well).

Our Facebook address is - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1929665840661372/>

One last thing - come with ideas for field trips, classes and educational ideas for the coming year. We'd love to hear your thoughts!

Looking forward to seeing you!!

Note: The Rock County Fairgrounds are located at 1301 Craig Ave., Janesville. The gate is midway down Craig Ave. Turn into the fair-grounds, take a left at the back of the bleachers. Go straight to Craig Center. There is free parking immediately in front of the building - OR - use the map on our Facebook page for directions.

*FYI: there will be no RPMGA meeting in December.*

## **Rotary Gardens Event: Botanical Talk: Growing Healthy Plants - Basics in Plant Disease Management, Saturday, November 10, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

Learn about common methods for disease control, their pros and cons, and how you can adapt these techniques for use in your own home garden with Brian Hudelson, from the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Cost:** \$7 non-member, \$5 RBG Members; includes printed and note taking materials (where applicable), admission to Rotary Botanical Gardens, and light refreshments. Tickets to this event may be purchased at the door, or online, in advance. Those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult, who is also required to purchase a ticket.



## **News from the WI Master Gardener Association (WIMGA)**

*Bev Feltz and Ruth Oren are our local representatives to the state association. They attended WIMGA's fall meeting on Oct 13, 2018 at Hancock Ag Research Station and returned with the following information.*

**Statewide MG Conference:** Two hundred ten people attended WIMGA's 2018 conference in September. The full conference report will be on the WIMGA website ([www.wimga.org](http://www.wimga.org)). No county volunteered to host a conference in 2019, so it was suggested that the Annual conference be changed to every other year and a 1-day leadership conference that travels to 3 sites around the state would fill the other year.

**Susan Mahr is retiring:** She will be on vacation after December and officially retires in April. Mike Maddox and Amy Freidig will still be in the office.

**Online reporting:** According to Susan Mahr, this is at least a year away if not longer. It will be implemented in stages, beginning with adding and reporting on projects online. Actual hours logging could be 18 months to 2 years away.

**WIMGA newsletter:** There was discussion of whether or not to offer the newsletter online only. Last year WIMGA had 3480 members, this year 3035 (413 have no background check and that is part of the fluctuation). Currently around 500 people get it mailed to them. Everyone else gets it online. Postage was discussed and volume needed to get the bulk mailing rate and who would do the mailing in the absence of Susan Mahr. The issue was referred to the WIMGA Board for further discussion.

**Mandatory background checks:** WIMGA confirmed that an individual cannot work or volunteer for the UW (which includes UW Extension) without completing a background check every 4 years. Background checks done elsewhere do not sub for the UW one.

**WIMGA local projects:** We discussed reevaluation of our current projects in the counties to see how well they educate the public on horticulture, what projects are approved for each county, and how they help the community and the volunteers. Rules will be coming and will be posted on the website as to what is relevant and good use of MGV time. Hours have to have value more than just an educational component. We should review and reevaluate ongoing projects for the following: Are they still appropriate, and How long are we going to keep doing the project into the future. Counties are encouraged us to send pictures and articles on local projects to be included in the WIMGA newsletter.

## **Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Ongoing, RPMGA Program Planning and Coordinating for 2019.** One or two people needed to help plan and arrange programs and tours for next year. If interested, contact Ruth Flescher ([yafello2@gmail.com](mailto:yafello2@gmail.com)) or Mary Kay Thompson ([mastergardenermary@gmail.com](mailto:mastergardenermary@gmail.com)).

**Rotary Gardens Holiday Light Show,** Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from November 23 through December 30. A variety of shifts and types of volunteer opportunities related to the light show are available. For job descriptions and to select your shifts, see <http://sig-nup.com/go/LkovyHy>. Orientation for all light show volunteers takes place Thursday, November 15. Sessions are at either 10:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. Please plan to attend one of the sessions.

**Late Fall Volunteer Work Day,** Welty Environmental Center, Saturday, November 3, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Join Welty, the Rock County Conservationists and Green-Rock Audubon for a morning of end-of-season clearing. After we chop, lop, and saw (no power tools, please) a lunch cook-out will be provided, using the fresh biomass for a bonfire. Feel free to bring a dish to pass. Bring your own hand tools, gloves, safety glasses and hard-toed shoes. All new participants required to fill out a City of Beloit waiver (available onsite 11/3). Age 14 and below must be accompanied by adult. For more information call 608-362-6212 or email [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org).

**Prairie Seed Collection** UW Whitewater Nature Preserve, Mondays 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Fridays 10:00 a.m. to noon, November 5, 9, 12 and 16. Seed is used either at the nature preserve or donated to the City of Whitewater for native landscaping. Meet at the Hoffman Memorial Kiosk on Schwager Drive in Whitewater.

**Ecological Restoration Work Party,** Grady Tract, UW Arboretum, Madison, Saturdays, November 3 and November 17, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteer for restoration activities and learn about prairies and savannas. Tools and training provided. Groups welcome with advance notice. Meet at Grady Tract parking lot, southeast corner of Seminole Hwy. and W. Beltline Frontage Rd. More information: (608) 265-5214 or [marian.farrior@wisc.edu](mailto:marian.farrior@wisc.edu).

**Ecological Restoration Work Party,** Core Area and Curtis Prairie, UW Arboretum, Madison, Saturdays, November 10 and November 24, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteer for restoration activities and learn about prairies and savannas. Tools and training provided. Groups welcome with advance notice. Meet at the Visitor Center. More information: (608) 265-5214 or [marian.farrior@wisc.edu](mailto:marian.farrior@wisc.edu).

**Ongoing, RPMGA Newsletter Writing and Layout for 2019.** Interested in writing or have some layout or design skills? We could use help putting together the monthly newsletter for the coming year. If interested, contact Ruth Flescher ([yafello2@gmail.com](mailto:yafello2@gmail.com)) or Mary Kay Thompson ([mastergardenermary@gmail.com](mailto:mastergardenermary@gmail.com)).

## November Education Calendar

For details on any of these education opportunities, search the web using the program title and/or organization name.

**UWW** = Univ of WI, Whitewater; **OBG** = Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison; **UWA** = UW Arboretum, Madison; **NCG** = Nicholas Conservatory Gardens, Rockford, IL; **RBG** = Rotary Botanical Garden, Janesville; **WEC** = Welty Environmental Center, Beloit; **ACG** = Allen Centennial Garden, Madison; **WHPS** = Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Madison; **HHM** = Hoard Historical Museum, Fort Atkinson.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 The Complex Relationship between Climate Change Beliefs and Sustainable Behavior UWW	3 Fall Symposium RBG/All About Owls UWA/Let's Get Batty NCG
4 Follow the Glacier Walk UWA	5	6 Clouds, Clouds Go Away: The Hydrologic Cycle WEC	7 2019 Garden Trends OBG	8 Annual Potluck and Gifts from the Garden RPMGA	9	10 Botanical Talk: Growing Healthy Plants RBG/Tool Sharpening Workshop ACG
11 Book Club: The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder OBG/Thinking Like an Arboretum UWA/ Reintroducing the Wild Turkey UWA	12 Bark, Berries, Grasses and Beyond OBG	13 Gardens of Stone OBG	14 Flowering Shrubs for All Seasons WHPS	15 A (Laura Ingalls) Wilder Garden OBG/Winter Planter Workshop ACG	16	17 Hydroponics NCG/ Trees Around the World HHM
18 Arboretum Sampler Walk UWA	19	20	21	22 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	23 Beaver Moon Night Walk UWA	24

<b>25</b> <b>How Plants and Animals Prepare for Winter Walk UWA/Native November Family Walk UWA</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Wreath Workshop ACG</b>	<b>30</b>	
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## **Looking Ahead to December:**

The following events are early in December but require pre-registration in November. Check website for details. Programs are at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, unless otherwise noted.

Horticulture for the Holidays: Osage Orange cultural information and wreath, plus evergreen swag, Saturday, December 1, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. University of Illinois Extension. Program located at Lockwood Park Cookhouse in Rockford, IL. Registration deadline: November 28.

Evergreen Holiday Wreath with Natural Materials Workshop, Tuesday, December 4th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; or Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Registration deadlines: November 27 for Dec. 4 or November 28 for December 5.

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UW-Extension Rock County, 51 S. Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545