



# **Waupaca County May 2020**

## **Master Gardener Volunteers' Newsletter**

### **Master Gardener Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month.**

In the event that a meeting or event is canceled due to weather, please listen to WJMQ 92.3 and WDUX 92.7 for cancellation information. We will also attempt to notify members via email.

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### **Next Meeting May 14th:**

Membership meeting is cancelled.

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### **2020 Executive Board Members:**

President: Debbie Krogwold  
Vice-President: Carrie Esch  
Secretary: Nancy Sonnenberg  
Treasurer: Rebecca Weber-Schmoll  
Member at Large: Deana Hirte  
Member at Large: Jane Wilson  
Past President: Patty Tomczak-Virnig  
State Board Rep: Pat Ritchie  
UWEX Advisor: Greg Blonde

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Due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak & guidelines from Wisconsin Department of Health Services, UW-Madison, and federal agencies, all upcoming meetings are cancel until the outbreak is under control and restrictions have been lifted.

Continue to stay active and healthy!

### **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

Executive Meeting is cancelled.

### **Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

Membership Meeting is TBD.

If 'Safer-at-Home' restrictions are lifted, Bridget Kurth has graciously offered to host our membership meeting. 1909 Mayflower Court, New London. Details and directions will be printed in the June newsletter.

### **WCMGV Projects:**

All remain cancelled through May due to the Safer-at-Home restrictions imposed by the state of Wisconsin.

### **Fall Plant Sale, September 19th:**

Just a reminder as you are out in your gardens to think about what plants you could dig up for the Fall Plant Sale. Some of those, such as Hostas, would be best dug up now and potted. Please refer to the April newsletter for more information. Attached to this newsletter is the label template. Please use regular blank plant pots (no printing on them) for potting. If you have any questions on anything regarding plants, potting, labeling, etc., just give me a call or e-mail. Would love to hear from you!  
Debbie

## **Greg Blonde Retirement**

Waupaca County Agriculture Agent  
UW-Madison Division of Extension

In January, Greg Blonde notified UW-Madison Extension administration and the Waupaca County Agriculture & Extension Education Committee that he will retire this summer (last day Friday, June 5) after nearly thirty-six years as UW-Madison Extension Agriculture Agent for Waupaca County. Greg says, "It's not easy leaving something you love, especially when it's the only thing you know. But who we are is more than what we do, and like someone once told me, all good things must come to an end".

Greg says he often asks, "Where did three and a half decades go! I can still remember my first day (August 22, 1984) like it was yesterday. It also happened to be the first day of the Waupaca County Fair that year, which was a great opportunity to meet a lot of wonderful people I would be working with for years to come". In 1994, Greg helped establish the Extension Master Gardener program in Waupaca County. Since then, over 200 Waupaca County residents have completed general MG training and supported several local volunteer projects. He credits current and past local MG Board members with outstanding leadership and support for helping to grow and maintain the local MG Association, especially in a rural county like Waupaca. In addition to current Extension office colleagues (especially Dana), Greg credits previous co-workers like Steve Hemshrot, Bernie

Mayek and Tom Wilson for their collaboration and support.

Given significant and growing financial implications from the ongoing pandemic for both UW and county budgets, as well as uncertainty over how long the financial implications will last, all Extension hiring has been suspended. But when the time comes, Greg is confident farmers, Ag professionals and local Master Gardeners will welcome and support the next Waupaca County Extension Educator.

## **2020 Scholarship Awarded**

Congratulations Recipient: Jacob Scheller

High School Student from Manawa  
planning to attend Fox Valley Technical  
College in the field of Horticulture.

## **Learning Opportunities**

Yard MD – Rob Zimmer Outdoors  
[www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors](https://www.facebook.com/RobZimmerOutdoors)

Radio Show – Rob Zimmer Outdoors  
Fridays 4-5pm & Saturdays 10-11 am  
**WHBY 1150 am Talk Radio**

Glad You Asked/Birds & Blooms: on-line  
with Melinda Myers:  
[www.birdsandblooms.com/glad-you-asked](https://www.birdsandblooms.com/glad-you-asked)

P. Allen Smith (TV)

Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR)  
[www.wpr.org/programs/larry-meiller-show](https://www.wpr.org/programs/larry-meiller-show)

Desperate Landscapes (TV)  
WI Master Gardener Program Web Site  
[www.wimastergardener.org](https://www.wimastergardener.org)

## **Learning Opportunities (continued)**

Webinar sponsored by Horticulture Magazine when you sign up for Newsletter: <http://www.hortmag.com/>

University Place – WPT – Public TV (Channel 38) Monday – Friday 9:00 am & Monday – 2:00 – 5:00 pm

PBS Growing a Greener World Create (TV) & PBS Create Public Television

Around the Farm Table PBS Wisconsin

## **Garden Stories**

One thing about our state's "Safer at Home" order, I sure am getting a lot of work done at home. Clean house, everything organized, and yard work galore completed. I am now thinking about buying annuals for my container planting. I really enjoy visiting the Amish greenhouses to buy all my flowers. I think the prices are more reasonable, the plants look amazing, and it certainly is "buying local." There are a number of Amish greenhouses in our area. My two favorite Amish greenhouses are Sunset Acres and Blooming Acres. The address for Sunset Acres is N11104 Quarterline Road, Marion. The address for Blooming Acres is N10188 Highway 110, Marion. Both are located nearby, and each has just a bit different inventory.

Happy planting,  
Rebecca

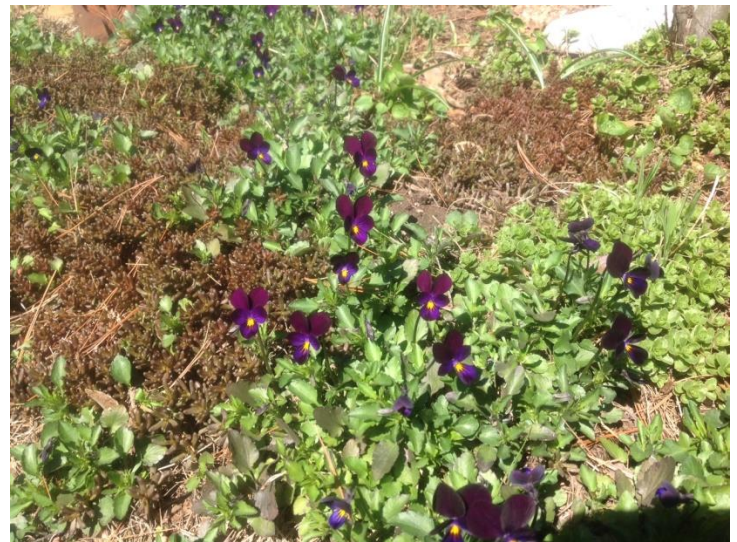
## Happy May Flowers

My favorite shrub, forsythia, is glowing in our backyard. Bridget with Chris



## AND...Dependable Flowers -

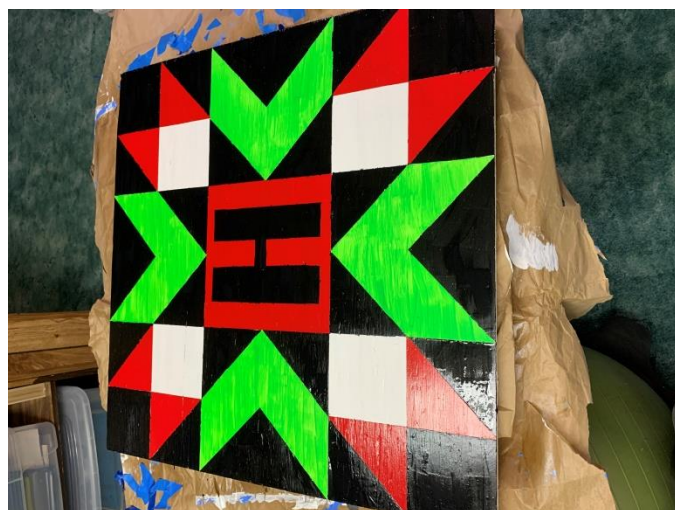
Johnny jump-ups are popping up my our deck. They add to the scene with no help from us.



Miss you all, Bridget



Here's what I've been doing during 'safer at home...



Children are our best natural resources.

~Deana~

Spring



### **A Note from Debbie . . .**

I keep replaying in my mind my first meeting in front of you as your president, seeing all of your smiling faces with excitement for the year ahead. For our Spring Plant Sale, our Garden Walk, attending garden conferences, and most of all, working on projects near and dear to our hearts. A little over a week later, all of that came crashing to a halt. We are now seeing areas of our nation gradually opening up, releasing people from confinement. We may experience that at the end of May. There may still be some restrictions in place, but hopefully we may be able to come together (albeit still with some social distancing and wearing face masks), and I will then remember your eyes (and probably recent haircuts)!

Until then . . . I am busy with yardwork! House cleaning, not so much. It has been wonderful having an earlier than normal warm Spring, cleaning out flower beds, getting ahead of the weeds (at least in some of the gardens), and preparing the veggie garden for planting. I've been lucky over the years not having deer trouble, but last year, mom and daughters camped out, eating raspberries, peas, broccoli, pumpkins, and even tomatoes. We now have an electric fence (yellow tape) around the raspberry patch, and soon around the veggie garden. And it works! Found that out accidentally a couple days ago.

I leave you with this picture of one of my better looking flower beds. It gives me the sense of what promise the future holds . . .



Crocuses are my favorite first to bloom in the spring flower!

Nancy S.





## Happy Birthday

### **May Birthdays:**

5/5 Carrie Esch  
5/10 Christine Bando  
5/13 Bill Johnson  
5/27 Ila Sanders



You have a birthday, but it's not listed???  
Please let us know if we missed you!

I'm sharing this photo of my youngest grandson holding up two strawberries in front of his face. My husband and I have been babysitting for him several days a week as his parents work. He is almost three; he is our entertainment.

Susan Morack...

**"I know this.**

**When this ends - AND IT WILL –**

**every game will sell out, every  
restaurant will have a two hour wait,**

**every kid will be glad to be back in  
school, everyone will love their job,**

**the stock market will skyrocket and  
every house will get TP'd**

**and we'll all embrace and shake  
hands.**

**That's gonna be a pretty good day.**

**Hang in there, World"**

**From: Jeff Heinz, WDEZ polka show**