



WAUPACA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

— SINCE 1994 —

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Carrie Esch

Vice President

Open

Treasurer

Rebecca Weber Schmoll

Secretary

Nancy Sonnenberg

Past President

Debbie Krogwold

State Board Representative

Pat Ritchie

Member at Large

Patty Tomczak-Virning

UWEX Program Assistant

Amy Ebert

Thursday December 14th

Membership Meeting

6:00 PM – Social

6:30 PM – Membership Meeting

Christmas Party

Location: Royalton Christian Church

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Meeting Schedule

Thursday, February 9th

Thursday, March 14th

Master Gardener Meetings 2nd Thursday of the Month.

In the event that a meeting or event is canceled due to weather, members will be notified via e-mail and/or phone.

Refreshment Schedule

Pot Luck Christmas Party

Bring a dish or beverage to pass



December Birthdays

Board Meeting

January 26, 2023

Membership Meetings

February 9, 2023

March 9, 2023

April 13, 2023

May 11, 2023

June 8, 2023

July 13, 2023

August 10, 2023

September 14, 2023

October 12, 2023

November 9, 2023

December 14, 2023

Canvas Online Classroom

<https://login.wisc.edu/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO?execution=e1s2> to log into the on-line learning site.

Latest WIMGA Newsletter

https://www.wimga.org/files/uqg/ebc610_40e79c82e3fb47d68f21a5f3f9f4ee0d.pdf

to view updates and additional educational opportunities.

Online Reporting System (ORS)

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/report-your-hours/>

to log into the system to report volunteer and educational hours.

Meeting and Member Updates

Waupaca Co. Master Gardener Volunteer 2023

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Location: Royalton Christian Church (Pat's church)
Depot Street, Royalton

Festivities begin at 6:00 pm

WCMG providing main course: chicken, potatoes and gravy
Bring a dish or dessert to pass

Gift exchange (\$15) optional – Left Right Game

Committee Leader REMINDER

Payment Vouchers can be submitted to
Rebecca for reimbursement. Thank You!

As part of the revisions to the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program, the program has decided to issue new name badges to all current participants in the program.

- If you accept Terms and Conditions here in the Online Reporting System (ORS) on or before May 15, 2023 you will receive a new name badge in the 2023 calendar year.
- If you accept Terms and Conditions here in the Online Reporting System (ORS) after May 15, 2023 you will receive a new name badge in the 2024 calendar year.
- You will only receive one name badge. No replacements will be issued.
- Please verify your contact information. The name badge will be associated with the address on file in the ORS.
- Your Name in Use (preferred name) will be used on the name badge. Last names will not be used in order to protect your privacy and safety.
- You are expected to discontinue use of all old name badges when conducting volunteer activities or obtaining continuing education related to your participation in the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program.

November 2023 Meeting Minutes

President Carrie Esch called the meeting to order at 6:30 with 4 members in person and 3 attending on Zoom.

The Treasurer's report was provided by Rebecca Weber Schmoll and will be filed for audit.

The Secretary's report was provided by Nancy Sonnenberg. Meeting minutes were provided in the October newsletter. There were no corrections to note. A motion to approve the minutes was passed with this correction was moved by Patty first and second by Rebecca.

New Business

Library Donations Rebecca received and read a thank you letter for the donation from the New London Library, several books were purchased.

Master Gardener Program Education To research resources to increase our membership in the WCMG Program, Carrie contacted the UW-EX and UW-Horticultural Educators (see pages 6-9). Recruitment for fully accredited Master Gardener Volunteers is limited by educational requirements, but anyone interested in gardening can be a "friend" of the Master Gardener Program. WCMGV exists, and we can support others in the community interested in learning about gardening.

WIMGA Support No response was provided at this point.

Newspaper Articles To promote and inform the public about the WC MGV Program newspaper articles about our projects county wide, starting with the sturgeon trail, both children's gardens, fairground garden and work at the fair, plant sale and Veterans Home gardens can be written and published. Interested and potential new members could work with us during the summer and take Foundations in Gardening Class in the Fall of 2024.

Old Business

2024 Plant Sale Members discussed and decided the location will be at the Fairgrounds and on the same Sunday as the fireman's chicken BBQ in 2024. The building will need to be reserved.

December Meeting and Christmas Party The Royalton Church has been reserved the evening of December 14th

Membership Meetings No January meeting is scheduled. A February meeting is TBD (Zoom).

There was a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm.

Library Donations



Thank you for your thoughtful and generous gift to our library in support of our collection of gardening books. Our relationship with area gardens and gardeners is important to us. Collaborations in growing plants and growing minds is common between our organizations. Thank you for being such a strong supporter for literacy. Our 2024 theme is "Adventure Begins at the Library." Let's see where this growing adventure takes us together!

*Sue Abrahamson
Children's Librarian*

Fellow Supporter of the Waupaca Area Public Library,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Waupaca Area Public Library Foundation. We greatly appreciate your generosity and continued support of our library, programs, and exhibits. This donation is also tax-deductible. The donor receives nothing of commercial value for this recent donation to the Waupaca Area Public Library.

Name: Waupaca County Master Gardener Association

Contribution Amount: \$100

Donation Designation: Youth & Adult Garden Books

Check Date: 9/20/2023

Please save this document as a tax receipt. For tax purposes, the Waupaca Public Library Foundation Inc. Tax ID number is 39-1656437.

Thank you again for your continued support of your library!

Sincerely,

Waupaca Area Public Library Foundation

107 South Main Street

Waupaca, WI 54981

(715) 258-4414

New London Public Library

406 South Pearl Street
New London, Wisconsin 54961
920/982-8519
FAX 920/982-8617

October 10, 2023

Rebecca Schmoll
N5350 Collier Rd
New London WI 54961

Dear Master Gardeners of Waupaca County,

Thank you so much for the donation of 100.00. We will use it to provide a garden-themed program in the spring.

We think these types of programs are popular with the customers of the library.

Thank you once again,



Hello Kaitlin,

My name is Carrie Hitchcock-Esch and I am with the Waupaca County Master Gardeners. I am contacting to see if you have any ideas that would help our county to increase our membership. Waupaca County has approx. 20 members with about 10 of us active and able. We would like to host an in-person MG training to recruit new members. The problem is our county board has decided to eliminate the Ag agent position, and we do not have an extension horticulturist either. And therefore, we were told that training in Waupaca County is not a possibility.

Last year, I contacted the state Master Gardeners the answer they gave me was to have people look into the on-line training. The on-line MG training option is far too expensive for most people that I have talked with, and most people join the MGs for social reasons and the on-line element eliminates that. They also mentioned the "friends of master gardeners" but that is not a viable solution.

We would be open to holding in-person training via zoom with another county, say Outagamie or Winnebago. That way there is the in-person aspect where potential new members could meet and bond over gardening, while being able to do the training and ask questions to real people.

If you have any ideas or contact that you think would be helpful, please let me know. I am afraid if we don't recruit any new members in the coming year that our organization may dissolve.

Hi Carrie,

I'm sorry to hear about the challenges that your organization is facing.

This year Outagamie & Winnebago are hosting a joint course, Backyard Gardener. This is a program that teaches participants the essentials of horticulture, and is an approved learning opportunity for the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program in preparation to become a Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener. Although our main demographic of participants are based in Outagamie & Winnebago county, we do also draw from neighboring counties, as our class is located centrally at UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities in Menasha. Find more information here: <https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/backyardgardener/>

We will be hosting a class again next year. Once plans are finalized I'd be happy to send along a flyer advertising the program. You may consider contacting WIMGA (<https://www.wimga.org/>) as they may have additional ideas that I'm unable to provide, the president is Marilyn Gorham wimga.president@gmail.com -

I wish you luck in recruiting and thank you for your time volunteering; feel free to reach out with any additional questions.
Have a great day!

Kaitlin R. Bricco

Horticulture Educator

Extension Outagamie County

Kaitlin.Bricco@outagamie.org

KBricco@wisc.edu

Hello,

My name is Carrie Hitchcock-Esch and I am with the Waupaca County Master Gardeners. **I am contacting you because our county could use some help from the state organization.** Our MG group is in need of your help trying to increase our membership. We would like to host an **in-person** MG training to recruit new members. The problem is our county board has decided to eliminate the Ag agent position. And therefore, training in Waupaca County is limited. Can you help us come up with a solution?

Last year when I contacted the state Master Gardeners the answer you gave me was to have people look into the on-line training. The on-line MG training option is far too expensive for most people that I have talked with, and most people join the MGs for social reasons and the on-line element eliminates that.

We would be open to holding in-person training via zoom with another county. That way there is the in-person aspect where potential new members could meet and bond over gardening, while being able to do the training and ask questions to real people.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie Hitchcock-Esch

Waupaca County Master Gardener Volunteers

esch@uniontel.net

715-412-2003

Response from UWEX: Nov. 1, 2023

Carrie,

We are sorry to hear about the association's situation. Unfortunately, what you are proposing is not possible in the new model.

In the new model, how individuals enter the Master Gardener Program is different. It is now a two-step process.

Step #1 - Individuals must take an approved learning opportunity from the UW-Madison Horticulture Program. For a learning opportunity to qualify it has to be taught by an Extension Horticulture Program staff member or educator. This training cannot be taught by a third-party organization. Also keep in mind that these classes are open to anyone who wants to take it. There is no requirement that individuals become a Master Gardener. Besides the online Growing and Caring for Plants in Wisconsin: Foundations in Gardening course there are some approved in person learning opportunities. This year there were courses held in Appleton, Marathon & Wood Counties.

Step #2 - Individuals must enroll and complete the MG Onboarding course. This course is ONLY offered online and by the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program. Onboarding has a section on Associations. They are given the information to the WIMGA website if they care to connect with a local association. You might want to make sure your information is up to date there.

Please keep in mind that the Foundations in Gardening course does offer discounted rates for individuals in need of financial assistance. And while Foundations in Gardening and Onboarding are online there are items built into the course to offer interaction among participants. The interaction is not only by geographical area but statewide.

We are sorry to hear that your membership is low. Keep in mind that it is no longer a requirement that association membership be master gardeners in good standing. Feel free to recruit members as you wish. In addition, since holding an in-person class as an entry point to the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program is not possible, you might want to think about how your association can support people through the journey and offer social interaction at the same time. You may also reach out to WIMGA to see how they may be of assistance.

We are sorry we cannot help more and hope that you are able to recruit new members. .

Sincerely,

The Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program Office
(Kimberly & Robert)

Follow up by me: Nov. 2, 2023

Hello Kimberly and Robert,

Thank you for getting back to me.

I have reached out to WIMGA and a UWEX horticulturalist in a neighboring county to ask them if they have any thoughts regarding membership recruitment. I realize that recruitment and retention of MGs is an issue statewide.

Could you please let me know if the on-line Foundations in Growing class that is offered, is there a live "in-person" element to the course or is it just video? I ask this because the course is only offered once a year.

Thank you,

Carrie

The Foundations in Gardening course has different virtual engagement opportunities that can be attended live by participants. There are live Q&A webinars. There are virtual labs that can be taken for an additional fee. There are discussion boards for sharing. And there is an easy to access course moderator for 3 months during the suggested calendar, plus participants have access to course material for almost a full year.

Additional details about the course can be found [here](#).