



WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Serving its members since 1992

September 2024

WIMGA

WIMGA Vision - The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association is the collective voice for local Master Gardener Associations and individual members in active support for their horticultural projects and services; build networks to enhance outreach, share ideas and promote projects.

September Musings

Marilyn Gorham, St Croix Valley MG

If you haven't already read the current VIBE, please be sure to do so! We have a new Horticulture Program Manager, Peggy Damann and it is an exciting announcement for the Program. On behalf of the WIMGA Board and its members, I extend a warm welcome to Peggy and look forward to partnering with her as she begins her work with the Master Gardener Program.



The Board has been busy over the summer months and while our MGs' project work is slowing down, the Board is very active again.

Our 2024-2025 educational opportunities calendar is shaping up to be another informative series of programs. If you can't join us for the live event, you will have access to a recorded version of the program so be sure to register. Our first event is on September 11th. More information is available about it on page 2. Please join us!

Don't forget that applications for WIMGA Educational Grants are due October 1st. Look at your Association's educational programs and submit an application if a WIMGA grant can provide additional support for your work. Many of our Local Associations participate annually in the grant program.

WIMGA will be hosting a Local Representatives' Zoom meeting on Monday, October 7 at 6:30pm and a Local Presidents' meeting on Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30pm. These meetings provide opportunities for these groups to network and share information, successes, questions and concerns on a statewide basis and with the WIMGA Board. It is always an educational evening for our Reps and Presidents.

Our plants are slowing down, but WIMGA is still on the move!

Marilyn Gorham,
WIMGA President

Inside this Issue

Continuing Education	2
Educational Grants	3
Grant Reports:	
St. Feriole Island Gardens	3
Sunflower Project	4
Black Walnut Trees	5-6
Resources	7

Continuing Education Opportunities

The Continuing Education Committee has been working out details for our Fall and Winter topics for WIMGA members. Take a look at the tentative schedule below. Dates and times for 2025 topics may be adjusted.

Upcoming Calendar:

All events will be on Zoom and tentatively scheduled for 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 11, 2024	Judy Cardin The Buzz in Our Garden: Helping Threatened Bumble Bees
Tuesday, October 1, 2024	Nick Ternes, Botanophilia Inc. – Shade Plants
Monday, January 13, 2025	ANNUAL MEETING Featured Speaker: Doug Tallamy, Nature’s Best Hope
February 4, 2025	Doug Tallamy, Homegrown National Park <i>This talk will be available to non-members for \$10 – Free to WIMGA members</i>
March Speaker Series: \$30 for WIMGA members and \$45 for non-members	
March 4, 2025	Emily May, Xerces Society Pesticides, Pollinators and the Garden
March 12, 2025	Glenn Herold, the Cottage Gardener Ephemerals and Woodland Plants
March 19, 2025	Glenn Herold Unusual Perennials through the Three Seasons
Early April	Speaker and Topic TBD

Registration is already available for our September speaker, **Judy Cardin**, DNR educator with the community science program, Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade. If you misplaced your registration email, a link may be found on the Members Only tab on our website.



In October, we will hear from **Nick Ternes on Hostas and Shade Plants**. Nick Ternes is the resident plant geek and founder of Botanophilia LLC, a mail-order nursery located in Antigo, Wisconsin dedicated primarily to plants for shaded gardens. Nick has worked in the horticulture industry since 1996, working in retail greenhouses and garden centers, writing articles, giving seminars, and hybridizing several genera of plants. His program will be available on **Tuesday, October 1st at 6:30pm**. Registration email will be sent soon.

You can follow Nick at: www.iloveshadeplants.com and www.confessionsofaplantgeek.com.

The Continuing Education Committee is excited to feature **Doug Tallamy** for our Annual Meeting on January 13, 2025, and again on February 4. Doug is a researcher and educator at the University of Delaware, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology where he has authored 112 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 43 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His latest book is “Nature’s Best Hope”.

WIMGA Educational Grants

One of the WIMGA membership benefits is our Educational Grants. **Grant Funding** budgeted for the 2024 year is \$8,850. This is a great opportunity for your Association to get some funding from WIMGA to aid in your efforts of community education and help make your projects become a reality.

Some examples of how Associations are using the funds are to:

- 🌱 Speaker fees for educational topics
- 🌱 Children's garden needs
- 🌱 Educational resources – printing costs, displays and seminar materials
- 🌱 Seed starter kits
- 🌱 Senior garden resources such as elevated planters
- 🌱 Seed saving reference books
- 🌱 And many other great educational projects

The grant application forms for each of the three levels of funding (\$100, \$250, and \$400) and WIMGA educational grant criteria are on the WIMGA website at <https://www.wimga.org/grants-1>. Electronic submissions are recommended and due by October 1. Please email your applications to treasurer.wimga@gmail.com.

St. Feriole Island Gardens

By Donna Teynor & Lori Brey, Crawford County MG and Kids in the Garden co-chairs

The Crawford County Master Gardeners and our Kids in the Garden Program would like to thank WIMGA for awarding us a \$400 Educational Grant for 2024. We used the Grant money to purchase signage to mark our Kids in the Garden area in the St. Feriole Island Gardens. The flag sign has our caterpillar logo on it and is very bright and colorful.



The first week of Kids in the Garden, as the kids were coming into the garden, I heard one of the kids say, "Look at the giant caterpillar, Donna got us a flag!" How wonderful to hear and to have the kids notice it.

The second week we had to move off the island to another park, because of the high water. We used the flag to help everyone find us. Several of the mom's said the flag was very bright and colorful and helped to locate our new teaching area.

Grant money remaining after the flag purchase was used for potting soil for our containers and raised beds. They were all growing beautifully before the flood. The island has been closed since Friday June 28. As I write this on July 3rd, the water is about 5ft deep in our garden space. Everything will be covered with water and need to be scrubbed down.



Barron County Sunflower Project

Linda Mullikin, Barron County MGV

Thank you to WIMGA for the \$250 grant for the Barron County Sunflower Project: Involving horticulture education at schools in the Barron County School District, Master



Gardeners speak to second grade classes in the Spring, provide basic garden education and distribute sunflower seeds to the students. In the Fall, volunteers return to the third grade classrooms to measure sunflower seed heads and award prizes for the largest flower. At least six schools participate in the Sunflower Project with a potential of reaching over 200 students with horticulture education.

Despite the drought in 2023, Barron County Master Gardeners saw sizable sunflower seed heads grown by students. Students throughout Barron County are given Skyscraper seeds in the spring. In the following autumn students bring their largest seed head to school to be measured. This year in the Rice Lake schools we had the largest seed head ever. One of our third graders brought in a seed head that measured 23"!! Grant money purchased supplies for the sunflower education; specifically seeds and bird feeders as awards for the largest sunflower.



The Sunflower Project has been supported by the Barron County Master Gardeners for many years. Through the years, serious competition has developed within some families. Once a child has grown the largest seed head in his/her school, siblings often do their best to achieve the same results.

In 2018, a Rice Lake third grade boy was anxiously waiting to take his largest seed head to school. Unfortunately, the evening before, a bear came into the yard and decided that



the seed head would be a tasty treat and dragged it into the woods. In the morning the little boy was so disappointed to find the seed head gone, his mother actually went into the woods, found the seed head broken in half with a bite taken out of it. The family's efforts were rewarded as his sunflower was the largest seed head in his school!

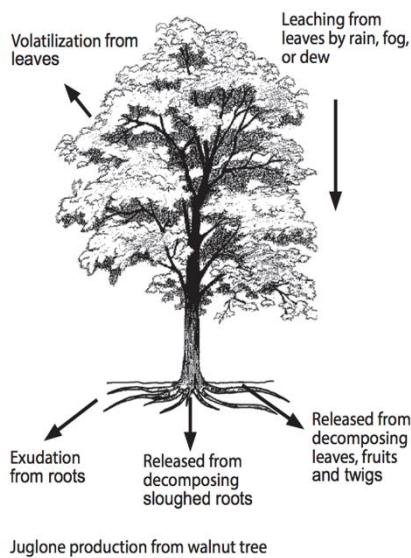
This project is fun to do and a great way to get kids excited about horticulture.

Black Walnut Trees

Article by: Donna Mae Stohlmann, St Croix Valley MG

Did you ever wonder why “Black Walnut Trees” are so mean and poisonous to other shrubs, vegetables, and trees? What is their poison that kills other shrubs?

Black walnut trees (*Juglans nigra*) produce a toxic substance (called juglone) that prevents plants from growing under or near them. Related trees like butternut (*J. cinerea*) and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) also produce juglone, but in lower concentrations than black walnut. Juglone occurs in all parts of black walnut trees, but especially in buds, nut hulls and roots. Because juglone is not very soluble in water it



does not spread far in the soil. Its effect is worst at the edge of the tree’s crown, or dripline. These toxic effects of a mature black walnut tree can extend 50 to 80 feet from the trunk of the tree. In this area, plants susceptible to juglone may wilt or die; plants tolerant to juglone will grow normally.

[Wisconsin Department of Horticulture-Extension](#)

Plants sensitive to juglone may be stunted, have yellow or brown, twisted leaves, exhibit wilting of some or all plant parts, and die over time. Often, the vascular (i.e., water-conducting) tissue of affected plants will be discolored. Symptoms may occur rapidly, even within a few days after sensitive species are transplanted into a walnut tree’s root zone. Alternatively, some plants may survive for years near a young walnut tree but will wilt and die as the tree increases in size. Black walnut toxicity can be

confused with wilts caused by bacterial and fungal pathogens. Because decaying roots can release juglone, soil can remain toxic for several years after a tree is removed. There is no cure for a plant affected by walnut toxicity. Removing a walnut tree may not be practical as the tree could be the focal point in a landscape. If you are growing sensitive species near a walnut tree, transplant them elsewhere in your garden. If you must grow sensitive plants near a black walnut, keep beds free of walnut leaves and hulls, and remove walnut seedlings as they appear. Two other nut trees are Hickory and Butternut, but they give off less poison.

I asked two of my friends who have Black Walnut trees for some comments and here is what they say: “These trees are great for shade.”, “Gorgeous hardwood.”, “These trees kill off my buckthorn bushes”, “Late summer, into fall they drop round shaped heavy lime colored fruit/nuts making mowing the grass with them hard.” And “The obvious reason is the toxicity they release to the surrounding soil which makes it difficult to grow a vegetable garden or some flowers, like peonies.”

The information in the following table is intended to provide guidance in selecting plants to grow near walnut trees. Inclusion of plants in this table is based on observation, not on formal testing.

In addition, the plant lists in this table are by no means exhaustive. Oftentimes the juglone sensitivity or tolerance of specific plants has never been observed or documented. Finally, sources often disagree on whether some plants (e.g., columbine, lily, narcissus, tulip) are juglone sensitive or tolerant. Some varieties may be susceptible while others are tolerant. Most plant species with conflicting information regarding their sensitivity or tolerance to juglone have not been included in the table.

Ann Joy and Brian Hudelson, UW-Madison Plant Pathology

	Sensitive to Juglone	Tolerant of Juglone
Vegetables	asparagus, cabbage, eggplant, pepper, potato, rhubarb, tomato	beans, beet, carrot, corn, melon, onion, parsnip, squash
Flowers	autumn crocus, chrysanthemum, forget-me-not, petunia, peonies	aster, astilbe, bee balm, begonia, black-eyed Susan, bluebell, calendula, crocus, daylily, ferns, grape hyacinth, some Hosta varieties, hollyhock, impatiens, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Jacob's ladder, marigold, morning glory, pansy, phlox, Siberian iris, squill, sweet woodruff, trillium, zinnia
Trees	alder, apple and crabapple, basswood, pine, spruce, silver maple, white birch	black locust, catalpa, Eastern redbud, hackberry, Canadian hemlock, hickory, most maples, oaks, pagoda dogwood, poplar, red cedar
Shrubs and Vines	azalea, blackberry (and most berries other than black raspberry), cotoneaster, hydrangea, lilac, mountain laurel, potentilla, privet, rhododendron, yew	arborvitae, bittersweet, black raspberry, clematis, currant, forsythia, euonymus, greenbrier, most honeysuckle, pachysandra, rose-of Sharon, sumac, most viburnum, Virginia creeper, wild grape, wild rose, willow, witch hazel
Field Crops and Grasses	alfalfa, tobacco	fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, orchard grass, soybean, timothy, wheat, white clover



2024 PDDC Plant Disease Talks

Brian Hudelson, UW-Madison Plant Pathology



Each month in 2024, the University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic will sponsor a free Zoom presentation on a plant disease-related topic.

To register for one or more talks, visit <https://pddc.wisc.edu/>.
Check at the bottom of the page for a link to the registration form.

Growing Healthy Plants: Basics in Plant Disease Management

September 25, 2024. 6:30 – 8:30pm

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.

Orchid Diseases

October 23, 2024. 6:30 – 8:30pm

Learn about common diseases of orchids. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.

Confessions of a Black Thumb:

Plants That I Have Killed (or at Least Seriously Maimed)

November 20, 2024. 6:30 – 8:30pm

Learn about the favorite plants of Brian Hudelson (aka Dr. Death) and his epic failures in attempting to grow these plants in his home garden, either through his encouragement of plant diseases, his insistence on practicing "Darwinian gardening" or through his sheer gardening stupidity. Use these cautionary tales to improve your own gardening skills.

Evil Twins: Plant Disease Look-Alikes

December 18, 2024. 6:30 – 8:30pm

Learn about common diseases that have similar symptoms and can be misidentified but may have very different management strategies.



Additional Resources from the
Extension Horticulture Program

Ask the Experts:

[A Monthly Garden and Landscape Q&A Series](#)

Sponsored by the UW-Madison
Division of Extension Horticulture Program

[Ask Your Gardening Question](#) This site is monitored by Wisconsin Master Gardeners.



Article ideas, events, contributions and any WIMGA related questions/concerns may be sent to news@wimga.org

**Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association
(WIMGA)**

Serving its members since 1992



The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association Newsletter is published six (6) times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November). Articles, artwork and ideas are welcome, final selection and editing are the responsibility of the editorial staff. The opinions reflected in this publication are expressions from individual master gardeners or associations and not necessarily the viewpoint of the UW-Madison Department of Horticulture, Division of Extension Master Gardener Program Office.

Visit the WIMGA Website at <http://www.wimga.org/>

September 2024 Newsletter

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The Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program supports a network of individuals dedicated to horticulture education, service, and lifelong learning. Through unbiased university research-based horticulture training they are equipped to address needs and opportunities in their community and throughout the state. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.