

PCMGV News — April 2017

Flower Arranging with Sherry Wanta

April 25, 2017 — 6:00 pm
Portage County Annex



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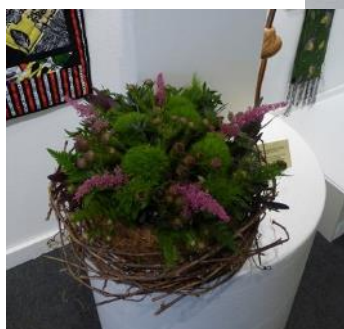
Sherry Wanta will be the speaker at our April meeting of the Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers. She has been the leader of the Rosholt Pioneer 4-H Club for 11 years, teaching flower arranging. Sherry has held nearly 40 workshops over the years. PCMGVs have supported the 4-H club for many years with grants to enable them to purchase the flowers needed to learn flower arranging. The members do very well in the county fairs earning many red and blue ribbons.

Sherry learned floral design from her friend/employer about 22 years ago when she started working for her. The business is Flowers of the Field, specializing in fresh and silk flowers for weddings, decorating wedding venues and hosting outdoor weddings. They do over 100 weddings a year.

The meeting will be held on April 25 at 6:00 pm at the Portage County Annex. We will also be welcoming the new PCMGV Associates members who are completing their Level I training on April 19.

— info submitted by
Cindy Bredow

Flower Arrangements from Garden Parade 2015
By Pioneer 4-H and PCMGV Members



2017 Upcoming Portage County Master Gardener Meeting Dates & Events

May 15, 6 p.m. — PCMGV meeting — Caine Home (Mike Maddox, Healing Gardens)
May 20, 8-11 a.m. — Plant Sale — Rettler Corp. parking lot, Portage Co Business Park
June 17, 7 a.m.-noon — St Point Farmers' Market: Ask a Master Gardener — Saturdays through Sept. 3
June 26, 6 p.m. — PCMGV meeting — TBD
July 14-15 — Garden Parade, 2-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday
July 24, 6 p.m. — PCMGV meeting — Tour garden Nina Cass/ Linda Cook

For more on these or future events or the Master Gardener Volunteers, visit:

<http://portage.uwex.edu>

or

<https://www.facebook.com/pcmgv/>

Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2017

The March 27, 2017 meeting of the Portage County Master Gardener Volunteers began at 6:00 in the Portage County Annex.

Grant and Scholarship recipients, Suzanna Viau and Caitlyn Fleischman, were the speakers. Suzanna gave a report on her experiences with the National Junior Horticulture Association and her trip to their National Conference. She shared details of the horticulture team contest and the educational sessions she attended. Caitlyn explained her participation in the National Student Exchange Program at the University of Hawaii. She was able to spend a semester there taking classes on Hawaiian ethno botany and experiencing first-hand Hawaiian horticulture. Her emphasis was on the Canoe Plants of Ancient Hawaii.

The general business meeting was called to order by Margaret Parsons.

Those present were: Sue Baldischwiler, Tom Baldischwiler, Margaret Bau, Cindy Bredow, Donald Caine, Lynn Caine, Philip Czaplinski, Jean Danielson, Daniel Goulet, Rose Grych, Jen Haas, Angie Hauer, Ellen Kiedrowski, Charlotte Kolinski, Laurie Kosmalski, Jamie Kreuziger, Debbie Kunst, Lynn Ligman, Marily Malcolm, Sandra Newby, Terri Offerman, Carole Olson, Sharon Omernick, Chrismary Pacyna, Margaret Parsons, Walt Rasmussen, Rebecca Roberts, Chere Schmit, Don Schmit, Nick Schultz, Dorothy Steuerwald, Lori Teuchert, Todd Teuchert, and Gail Zalewski.

The **Minutes** from February were approved.

The **Treasurer's** report was given by Lori Teuchert. Cindy Bredow and Rose Grych will work on the 2016 treasurer's audit.

Old Business:

Background Check Requirement: The UW-Extension Human Resources Department is working on this. More information will be coming soon.

Boston School Forest "80th Birthday and Earth Day Activity" is set for April 23. PCMGV will have an activity for students at the event from 1-5. Cindy Bredow, Debbie Kunst, and Chrismary Pacyna will work on this.

Committees:

Education / Programs: Suggestions are needed for the June "outdoor" meeting.

Farmer's Market: This will be starting in June. Sign-ups will be coming next month.

Flower Beds: Work days will soon be announced via e-mail. All are welcome (and needed!) to help for the spring clean-up. A current list of the gardens and a map of their locations will be included in the April PCMGV Newsletter.

Funds and Grants: Cindy Bredow announced that a grant was given to both McKinley School to revive their gardens and to the Rosholt 4-H for their flower arranging program. A request has been received from the Mead Wildlife Center.

Garden Parade: The committee continues to plan for this. Anyone interested in helping with this is invited to attend the planning meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Jen Haas or Dorothy Steuerwald for time and location. The quilt and raffle tickets are available for display at local events.

Newsletter: Thanks were extended to Alicia Razvi for her work on the PCMGV Newsletter. Gail Zalewski and Nick Schultz will take over this responsibility in April.

Plant Sale: Chere Schmit asked each PCMGV to provide at least 6 plants for the May 20th sale. Additional information will be included in the April PCMGV Newsletter. Volunteer sign-up will occur at the May meeting. Contact Chere for more information.

— continued on page 4

YMCA Gardens: The gardens are planned for this year. Contact Lynn Caine if interested in helping with the Wednesday morning (9:30) educational component of this or in the garden planting and maintenance. Information on work days is forthcoming.

New Business:

Level 1 Training Class: Those completing the training are invited to attend our May meeting. They will be PCMGV interns, and eligible to work with any certified Master Gardener on events and projects to attain their required 24 volunteer hours in order to be certified for 2018.

Next meeting will be April 24 at 6:00 at the Portage County Annex. The speaker will be Sherry Wanta from the Rosholt 4-H sharing her “flower arranging” skills.

Monday, May 15 is the May meeting. It is scheduled for 6:00 at Lynn Caine’s house. This is scheduled for the 3rd week in May in order to get ready for the Plant Sale on May 20th. Mike Maddox from the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program office will speak on “Healing Gardens”.

WIMGA report: Lynn Caine reported on the March 18th meeting. Work on the WIMGA website continues. The 2017 WIMGA conference will be held in West Bend on October 13-14.

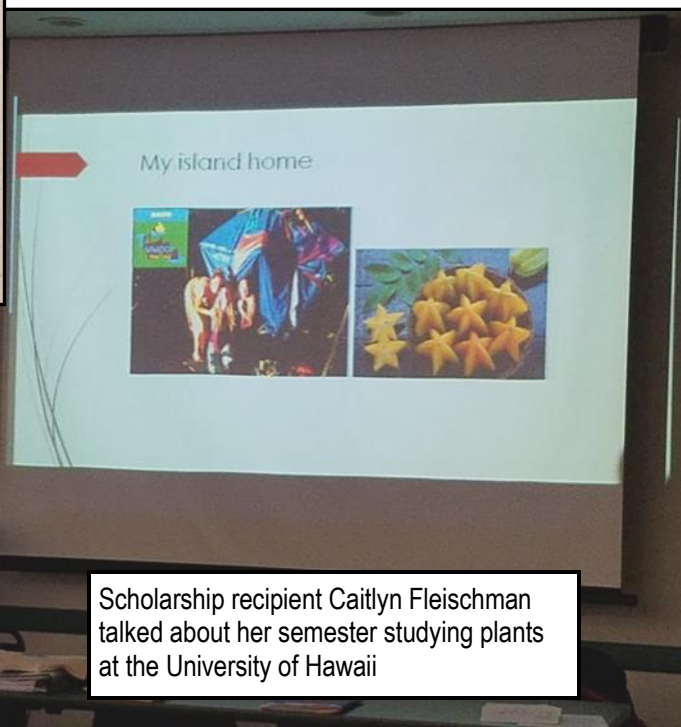
Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Continuing Education: Grant and Scholarship recipients, Suzanna Viau and Caitlyn Fleischman =
45 minutes (.75 hour)

Submitted by,
Chrismary Pacyna, PCMGV Secretary



Scholarship recipient Caitlyn Fleischman (left) and Grant recipient Suzanna Viau (right)



Scholarship recipient Caitlyn Fleischman talked about her semester studying plants at the University of Hawaii

2017 PCMGV Flower Bed Committee

Flower Bed	Committee Members	Flower Bed	Committee Members
Amherst Gardens	Bob Rausch	Plover Library	Jill Trochlell-Ziehr, Jan Pierson
Bukolt Park	Terri Offerman	Portage County Health Care Center	Dorothy Steuerwald, Sylvia Masters
Former Bus Depot	Debbie Kunst	Portage County Library	Jean Danielson, Sandra Newby
Hein Park	Shelley Binder	Portage County Courthouse	Michelle Daniels
HH Flower Bed-Welcome to Whiting	Deanna Gertsh- Pozorski	Rising Star Mill	Jen Haas
Humane Society	Carole Olsen Jamie Kreuziger	Rosholt Library	Todd and Lori Teuchert
Iverson Park	Kirby Throckmorton	Schmeekle Reserve	Jill Trochlell-Ziehr
Lincoln Center	Margaret Parsons, Phil Czapinski, Alicia Razvi	Veteran's Memorial	Margaret Parsons, Kari Simonis

Please contact Debbie Kunst at 715-343-0445 or debbie.kunst@exede.net or Margaret Parsons at 715-321-2471 or mparsons@tds.net for any compost or other supplies for gardens, including annuals for planting.

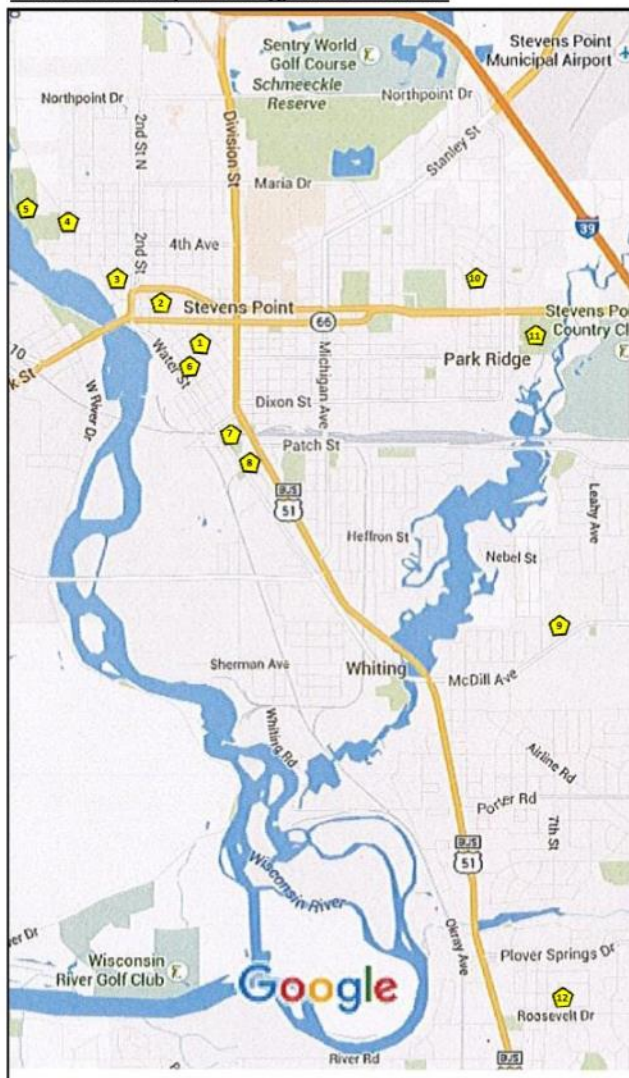
*For a complete map of all flower bed locations,
see page 5.*



Plover Library Flower Garden
— Picture by Jill Trochlell-Ziehr

2017 PCMGV FLOWER BED LOCATIONS

Stevens Point, Whiting, North Plover



Location

- 1 Portage County Courthouse**
1516 Church Street, Stevens Point WI
- 2 Portage County Library**
1001 Main Street, Stevens Point WI
- 3 Former Bus Depot**
1101 1st Street, Stevens Point WI
- 4 Bukolt Park Entrance**
100 Bukolt Avenue, Stevens Point WI
- 5 Bukolt Park Lagoon**
100 Bukolt Avenue, Stevens Point WI
- 6 Lincoln Center**
1519 Water Street, Stevens Point WI
- 7 Veteran's Memorial Veteran's Memorial Park**
Monroe & Church Streets, Stevens Point WI
- 8 Portage County Health Care Center**
825 Whiting Avenue, Stevens Point WI
- 9 HH Flower Bed-Welcome to Whiting**
Post Road and HH Water Street
- 10 Hein Park**
1101 Sunset Boulevard, Stevens Point WI
- 11 Iverson Park**
4201 Highway 66, Stevens Point WI

South Plover



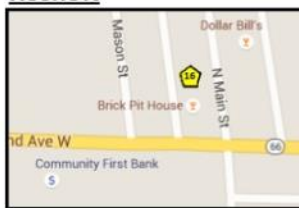
Amherst



Nelsonville



Rosholt



- 12 Plover Library**
2151 Roosevelt Drive, Plover WI
- 13 Humane Society of Portage County**
3200 Iber Lane, Plover WI
- 14 Amherst Garden**
Wilson & Train Crossing, Amherst WI
- 15 Rising Star Mill**
3190 County Road Q, Nelsonville WI
- 16 Rosholt Library**
137 N. Main Street, Rosholt WI

For more information contact Margaret Parsons at mparsons@tds.net

Calling All Master Gardener Volunteers and New Interns:

Hopefully we won't get any more snow this spring because before we know it the Plant Sale will be here, and once again we could use your help! As you survey your flowerbeds, and see that some of your perennials need dividing, please consider potting them up for the Plant Sale on May 20th at the Rettler Corporation Building. Or if you have started vegetables from seed, we can certainly use any extras you might be willing to share with us. The Plant Sale is one of the fund-raisers the PCMGV have and the profits are used for the monthly programs (that we all enjoy), scholarships, and books for local libraries. Remember: to be reimbursed for potting soil that you use, bring your receipts to the April 24th meeting and give them to Walt or myself so that we can authorize the vouchers in order for Lori Teuchert to get a check to you. (The New voucher can be found on the PC website: portage.uwex.edu) Also, the time it takes to dig and pot up your plants can be counted as volunteer hours!

Plant Inventory List:

The plant inventory list is in this month's newsletter. Please fill it out and turn it in to me at the April 25th meeting, so the labels can be printed (or email me with your list before Wednesday May 10th), so that a count can be made of the number of sticks you need. Packets with your labels and sticks will be handed out at the May 15th meeting. (If you pot up more plants after you turn in your list, you can write plant info on the sticks with a No. 2 pencil.) If you print your own labels, we still need a count for the number of sticks you need so we get them bundled together before the meeting. (We are using a different plant stick this year....the size is 1" x 4 1/2", with a label size of 1" x 2 5/8".)

2017 PLANT SALE GUIDLINES:

Friday May 19th: Set-up begins at 3 p.m. Please have your dozen (or more) plants labeled so they can be placed in the appropriate rows. Plants need to be arranged according to genus and species, and then by cultivar and color. Pricing will begin when a good number of plants have arrived. When ALL of the plants are priced and set up, we can then begin buying. To be fair to everyone, no plants may be set aside ahead of time, and any plants found sitting out will be put back.

Saturday May 20th: Please arrive around 6:30 a.m. and park in the WIAA lot, not on the street or at the Biolife Plasma Services lot (as they work on Saturday). We have tables to set up for the checkout and vegetables, and other last minute details that need to be attended to. If you are assigned a row, familiarize yourself with the plants in it. Make sure all of the plants are priced and labeled. If possible, bring a garden catalog or book with pictures to show prospective buyers what particular plants look like in bloom. Remember: Wear Your Name Badge, and Your Red Logo Shirt or Hat (if you have them).

Plants may be purchased before the sale begins, but please get them to your vehicle (in the WIAA lot) right away. No plants are to be stored in the shed for later purchase. When it is time to sell for half-price, a sign will be put up. (The only plants that are half-priced are the plants the Master Gardeners have brought in—not the plants from Heaths.) Please don't tell buyers we go to half-price at a certain time as that is variable. If you work the checkout, do not give the customers the pricing sticks or sales slips. We need the sales slips for accounting purposes, and the pricing sticks are reused each year. After all sales are completed, any plants needed for community projects can be taken. If you should want any of your own unsold plants back, they can be taken at clean-up.

We could use any sleds and wagons that you might have and for those of you that bring them, PCMGV signs will be supplied for identification. And please start saving water or beverage boxes to be used at the sale. If you have an overabundance of 4" pots, please bring them to the April meeting to share with fellow MGs.

THANK YOU in advance to all who will be donating plants or helping out in any way. We really appreciate your help!

Chere & Walt, and the Plant Sale Committee



Plant Inventory List

The plant inventory list is in this month's newsletter (on page 8). Please fill it out and bring it to the April 24th meeting, or get it to Chere Schmit by May 10th, so the labels can be printed. Packets with your labels and sticks will be handed out at the May 15th meeting. If you pot up more plants after you turn in your list, you can write the plant info on the sticks with a No. 2 pencil. I still need a count for your plant sticks so that I can get them bundled, even if you are printing your own labels. (This year we have changed the size of the plant sticks so the label size is 1" x 2 5/8".)

When filling out the plant inventory sheet.....

The TYPE refers to whether it is an annual, biennial, or perennial. (An annual lasts only one season, a perennial lives for many years, and a biennial is planted from seed one year, blooms and then goes to seed the next year.)

GENUS and SPECIES refer to the Latin botanical name of a plant. For example: Potato and eggplant belong to the Solanaceae (GENUS) family. The Latin name for potato is *Solanum tuberosum*, while *Solanum melongena* is the Latin name for eggplant.

The CULTIVAR is just short for cultivated variety. An example of potato cultivars would be: Kennebec, Yukon Gold, or Purple Majesty.

If you still feel intimidated by Latin nomenclature, just put down the common name. Any plants you are willing to share with us for the sale are welcomed, whether they have Latin names or not.

If any of you have the following plants growing in your gardens, it would be wonderful if you could share just a few of them with us for the Plant Sale.....Ajuga, Alchemilla (Lady's Mantle), Aruncus, Asters, Campanula, Lily of the Valley, Dianthus, Dicentra, Echinacea, Echinops, Calamagrostis Karl Foerster, Hemerocallis (named, please), Heuchera, Hosta (named, please), Iris (named, please), Linum (flax), Lobelia (Cardinal Flower), Monarda, and Sedum (named, please).

— submitted by Chere Schmit

Jumping Worms and how they pertain to future Plant Sales

As of 2013 there have been reports of this invasive species in the Madison and Milwaukee areas. Basically, jumping worms change the soil by disrupting natural decomposition, turning good soil into grainy, dry worm castings. So far there haven't been any reports of them being found this far north. To be on the safe side, when potting up your plants for the Plant Sale, it would be advisable to wash off the roots and pot up the plant in new potting soil. Further information can be found on WI DNR website: dnr.wi.gov (in the search bar of the DNR website, type in Jumping Worms) and there are also brochures and identification cards available at the UW-Extension Office located in the County Annex.

— submitted by Chere Schmit



MGV Name: _____

Please return by April Meeting

--- PLEASE PRINT ---

*Type refers to annual, perennial, or other kind of item to sell (birdhouse etc.)

[illegible]

Straw Bale Gardening

Items Needed: Straw Bales, High Nitrogen Fertilizer (46-0-0), Garden Fertilizer (10-10-10)

The first step in straw bale gardening is to put your bales where they will stay in the garden. Once you begin watering and planting you will not be able to move the bales. Be sure to purchase bales that are straw from small grains and not alfalfa hay. Look for bales that have synthetic twine because the natural twine will break down, the bale will pop open and you will have a straw pile garden. Newspaper or cardboard can be placed on the ground under the bales to prevent grass and weeds from growing around the bales. Do not use plastic because it will prevent the water from draining away from the bales.



Place the bales where they will get 6-8 hours of sunlight and have access to water. They can be put end to end, in a horseshoe or in any other design that fits your space. The strings of the bales go on the sides and soaker hose can be placed on top to be an efficient irrigation system. There should be a “cut” side and a “folded” side. Try to place the cut side up for an easier process. Plan where your vegetables will go so trellises can be added for vertical gardening that will not shade smaller plants.

Once the garden has been designed it is time to condition the bales. The water and fertilizer will begin a natural decomposition process. The bales will get hot so do not plant until the process is complete. To start the process, here is a recipe that works well.

Day 1: Sprinkle each bale with ½ cup high nitrogen fertilizer. Water the bales thoroughly until water runs out the bottom.

Day 2: Water the bales thoroughly. Using warm water speeds up the process such as from rain barrel.

Day 3: Sprinkle each bale with ½ cup high nitrogen fertilizer. Water the bales thoroughly.

Day 4: Water the bales thoroughly.

Day 5: Sprinkle each bale with fertilizer and water well into bales.

Day 6: Water the bales thoroughly with warm water only.

Days 7-9: Cut back to ¼ cup high nitrogen fertilizer per bale per day; continue to water well with warm water.

Day 10: Apply one cup 10-10-10 general garden fertilizer, continue to keep bales damp.

Days 12-18: Stick your hand into the bales to see if they are still warm. If they have cooled to less than your body heat, you may safely begin planting after all danger of frost has passed.

You can grow almost anything in a straw bale but some plants are easier than others. Carrots, onions, potatoes and corn may be a challenge.

Using a trowel make a hole in the straw and place the seedling up to the first leaf then cover the roots with a little sterile planting mix. Fill in the straw. If you need a bigger hole remove a little straw. Spacing is the same as conventional gardening. If you want to plant seeds just place a 1-2 inch layer of sterile planting mix on the top of the bale, tamp it down flat and plant seeds into the soil. When planting tomatoes be sure to stake them well or they will flop over.

Straw bales gardens don't contain any soil so nutrition must be provided by feeding with a liquid fertilizer once every other week when plants are small and then every week as plants begin to grow. Water the bales as needed.

Besides vegetables, strawberries absolutely love to grow in straw bales. Annual flowers can be added to the sides to dress up your bales or the whole bale can be used to make a splash of color in the garden.

— submitted by Lynn Caine



Growing Healthy Plants: Basics in Plant Disease Management

Friday, May 12

1 pm - 2:30 pm

Portage County Public Library
Pinery's Room

Gardeners everywhere have suffered losses of vegetables, flowers, trees and shrubs due to plant diseases. An understanding of how plant diseases get into your yard or garden, and how they are able to infect your plants, can help you develop strategies to avoid serious problems.

Growing healthy plants in your yards and gardens doesn't have to be difficult or time-consuming. UW-Extension is offering a class where you can learn techniques to grow healthy, happy, disease-free plants.

Dr. Brian Hudelson, will talk about how plant diseases occur and how they affect your plants. Strategies for preventing and managing plant diseases will be discussed to help you be more successful in the upcoming growing season!

I. Register On-Line at
<https://goo.gl/hTDS0I>

or scan here



2. Call 715-346-1316

3. Email denise.rocha@ces.uwex.edu



FREE
Limited Seating
Pre-Registration Required

Presented by

Dr. Brian D. Hudelson

Department of Plant Pathology

University of Wisconsin

Madison & Extension



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mparsons@tds.net

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Golden Sands Home Show

Sharon Omernick
Lynn Ligman

Garden Dreams

Sally Prideaux
Diane Dieterich

Chicago Bus Trip

Bob Rausch
Sally Prideaux

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YMCA Giving

Gardens
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Display

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Garden Parade

Dorothy Steuerwald
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Plant Sale

Chere Schmit
Walt Rasmussen

Funds/Grants

Cindy Bredow
Open

Farmers Market

Lori Teuchert
Sandy O'Brien

Publicity (Facebook)

Nick Schultz
Gail Zalewski

Flower Beds

Margaret Parsons
Deb Kunst

Rosholt Fair

Todd Teuchert
Lori Teuchert



YOUR WEBSITES:

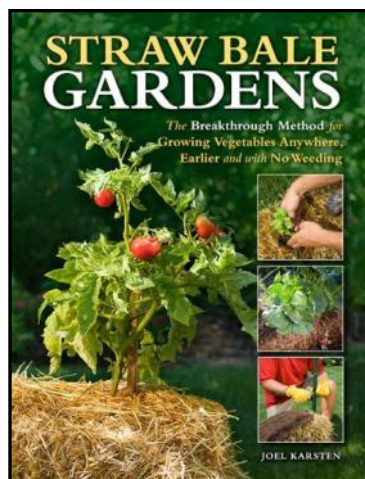
PCMGV Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pcmgv/>

Portage County UW-Extension: <http://portage.uwex.edu>

WI State Master Gardener: <http://wimastergardener.org>

UW-Extension Publications: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>

UW-Extension: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/>



If you enjoyed Lynn Caine's February presentation on Straw Bale Gardens and would like additional information, check out this book by Joel Karsten.

Please send items to Gail Zalewski by the 6th of the month to be included in the May newsletter:

gailzale@mwwb.net

**Our May Meeting is May 15, 2017
the PCMGV Plant Sale is May 20**

**Submission deadline for May:
May 6, 2017**

Please send address or e-mail changes to:
Denise Rocha:

denise.rocha@ces.uwex.edu
or 715-346-1316



May Garden Guide

- Set Easter lilies in garden.
- Plant cool-weather crops: lettuce, spinach, chard, parsnip, onion sets, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, mustard, turnips, radishes, peas, parsley, and potatoes in early May. Soil temperatures should be at least 45 degrees.
- Plant snap beans, pole beans, sweet corn, and onion plants in mid-May. Sweet corn planted earlier in the season has fewer pest problems.
- Inspect for Iris borer larva on iris leaves. Crush larva.
- For bigger Peony flowers, de-bud several branches. Stake before buds open.
- Set out pansy plants when ground is workable.
- Dig and divide mid summer and fall blooming perennials before tip growth gets too tall.
- Plant tuberous begonias.
- Watch birch leaves for birch leaf miner infestation. Use sticky traps to monitor emergence of adults to help time spraying with summer oil, Neem extract, or rotenone. Sprays are only effective on adults or larvae before they tunnel into leaves. Some soil applied systemic chemicals may be effective in controlling larvae after they have tunneled into leaves.
- Plant tomato seedlings by pinching off lower leaves and placing on its side in a shallow furrow 2.5 inches below the soil surface. Soil closer to the surface is warmer and will speed tomato growth.
- Plant and transplant new evergreens before new growth appears.
- Plant strawberries, bush fruits, and grapes in mid month. Pinch blossoms from newly planted strawberries to develop strong plants for next year.
- Remove faded flowers from spring-flowering bulbs. Cut off stalks but allow leaves to die down naturally. Fertilize after blooming with 5 10-20.
- Plant stored geraniums in well-drained soil after last frost and keep moist. New growth should begin in one week.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowers have faded. Apply fertilizer.



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