

**Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association**  
**Garden Conference: 1996-2023**



**2023**

# **Spring Garden Conference**

*Saturday, March 18, 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.*

*UW-Green Bay, Marinette Campus  
750 West Bay Shore Street, Marinette*

**Cost: \$40**

Includes morning refreshments, 4 educational sessions,  
plus homemade soup and lunch



## **Master Gardener Volunteers**

The Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association Inc. (NLMGAI) was established in 1991 to pass along research-based gardening information to the general public in cooperation with the UW Extension.

NLMGAI maintains the demonstration gardens at Harmony Arboretum as a venue for horticulture education and holds classes and demonstrations there during the growing season. (Harmony Arboretum is located 7 miles west of Marinette on Hwy 64, then 1/2 mile south on County Hwy E.)

Another way The Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association promotes research based gardening knowledge is by sponsoring educational events such as this conference. Proceeds from this event are used for Harmony Arboretum Demonstration Garden maintenance and other educational programs.

A new feature at Harmony this year will be the showcasing of the latest All-America Selection Winners. Harmony Demonstration Gardens was selected

- ♣ Use the QR code at right to find the NLMGAI Facebook page to send a message.
- ♣ If you have time on Thursday mornings during the growing season, stop at Harmony as that is a work day for Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers.



## 2023 Conference Registration Form

Please make a **first & second** choice in Sessions 1, 2 and 3

### Session 1

- ☐ Container Gardening with Flowers
- ☐ Saving the Planet - One Yard at a Time!
- ☐ Fundamentals of Foraging
- ☐ The Art of Fermentation
- ☐ How to Deal with the Changing Climate in WI

### Session 2

- ☐ Using Native Plants to Create Your Special Place
- ☐ Seed Saving
- ☐ Keeping Honeybees
- ☐ Survival Gardening - The Herbal Chapter
- ☐ Straw Bale Gardening

### Session 3

- ☐ Irresistible Irises
- ☐ Gardening in Raised Beds
- ☐ Pollinator Patches and You!
- ☐ Got a Gardening Question? Ask a Master Gardener
- ☐ Successful Backyard Chickens

### Session 4 (please list **1 through 3** in choices for this Session)

- ☐ Inside Out: House Plants in the Garden
- ☐ Outdoor Mushroom Growing 101
- ☐ Properly Pruning Fruit Trees
- Full** (Workshop) Winter Sowing Native Seeds (\$5)
- Full** (Workshop) Peace Post (\$40)
- ☐ (Workshop) Creating an Air Plant Garden (\$30)
- Full** (Workshop) Cordials - A Delicious Repeat! (\$15)

Conference fee: \$40 ... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop fee: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed:** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(Only 1 person per form, but payment may be combined)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

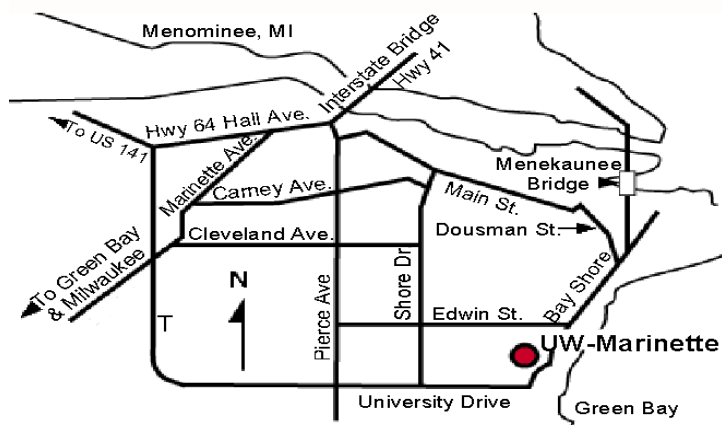
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to "NLMGAI" and include payment for your **first** choice workshop **if applicable**.

## Directions to the Campus

**From Hwy 41:** Take 41 to T, turn south, follow T (past the mall) to University Dr., continue (east) on University Dr. to Bay Shore St., and to the campus entrance on left.

**From the west on Hwy 64:** Take 64 to T and 180, turn right (south), follow T to University Dr., continue (east) on University Dr. to Bay Shore St., and to the campus entrance on left.



For up-to-date class availability check the NLMGAI Facebook page, or contact UW Extension—Marinette County at 715-732-7510, toll free at 877-884-4408, or visit on the web at <http://marinette.extension.wisc.edu>

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made.

*Northern Lights (NLMGAI) is open to anyone with an interest in gardening or horticulture regardless of your skill level. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or have never planted a seed you are welcome to join as an associate member.*

*Being a certified master gardener is not a requirement.*



Children's Garden at Harmony

## SCHEDULE

**8:00 a.m.** Registration Opens—Main Lobby  
Continental Breakfast  
Displays & Sales Open

### 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. Session 1

- Container Gardening with Flowers
- Saving the Planet - One Yard at a Time!
- Fundamentals of Foraging
- The Art of Fermentation
- How to Deal with the Changing Climate in WI

### 10:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m. Session 2

- Using Native Plants to Create Your Special Place
- Seed Saving
- Keeping Honeybees
- Survival Gardening - The Herbal Chapter
- Straw Bale Gardening

### 11:45 a.m. Lunch

Lunch will be the annual NLMGA feast of soup, salads, sandwiches and desserts. All homemade

### 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. Session 3

- Irresistible Irises
- Gardening in Raised Beds
- Pollinator Patches and You!
- Got a Gardening Question? Ask a Master Gardener
- Successful Backyard Chickens

### 2:30 - 3:45 p.m. Session 4

- Inside Out: House Plants in the Garden
- Outdoor Mushroom Growing 101
- Properly Pruning Fruit Trees

#### Workshops

- Winter Sowing Native Seeds (\$5) **Full**
- Peace Post (\$40) **Full**
- Creating an Air Plant Garden (\$30)
- Cordials - A Delicious Repeat! (\$15) **Full**

Check online to see which workshops are open:  
<http://marinette.extension.wisc.edu>

Also see our Facebook Page: Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association Volunteers (NLMGA)

## Description of Classes

### Session 1: 9:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m.

#### Container Gardening with Flowers

*Presenter: Kathy Cleven, Lifelong Gardener and Enthusiast*  
Love continuous vibrant and colorful flowers all season? Learn the basics of container gardening with flowers to achieve a garden of beauty. Explore the benefits and creativity allowed by artful use of containers. Learn the fundamentals of what it takes to have beautiful flower-pots that you can enjoy all summer.

#### Saving the Planet - One Yard at a Time!

*Presenters: Bill\*\* and Barb Swan\*\**

Insect and bird populations are dropping and entire species are disappearing. Learn the interrelations of our food web and how you can make a difference in your own yard, no matter how small. Removing invasive plants, limiting non-native plants, adding native plants (especially keystone plants) and providing soft landings are key concepts we'll explore. We'll share our experience and lessons learned in this process.

#### Fundamentals of Foraging

*Presenters: Amy Rock, Lifelong Generational Forager, Gina Thompson\*\*, Horticulturalist and Novice Forager*  
From novice to experienced and even the just curious; foraging for wild edibles can be a satisfying topic to explore. Join us as we cover the basics of Foraging for Wild Plants and expose some of those 'weeds' you already know as valuable foraging fare. Take it to whatever capacity you wish, a nibble on sweet clover to a full course with wild plants, we will share our knowledge to help you on your path amongst the wild edibles.

#### The Art of Fermentation

*Presenter: Tim Limberg\*\**

The focus will be on homemade sauerkraut, sour pickles and sourdough bread. Some methods have changed over time, but the formula is the same. From Grandpa's day to modern day, if it's not homemade it's not sauerkraut. Sour pickles are made without vinegar, just water and salt. If you like a good dill pickle, you will love fermented sour pickles. Who doesn't enjoy the smell of fresh bread from the oven, times two when it's fresh sourdough bread? Learn how to start and maintain your own sourdough culture.

#### How to Deal with the Changing Climate in Wisconsin

*Presenter: Leonard Matecki*

When Mother Nature is fickle, make changes that can counteract what nature is throwing at you. From raised beds to micro sprinklers to mulching, discover options you may not have thought of. Learn what works and what doesn't in your planting plans. Learn the specific needs of common garden plants for sun, moisture, heat and fertilizer.

While you are at the conference, don't forget to check out the **SALES TABLE** and **BUCKET RAFFLE** with items donated by Northern Lights (NLMGA) members and local businesses.

If you have a gardening question, take it to the **ASK A MASTER GARDENER** booth.

## **Session 2: 10:30 p.m.—11:45 p.m.**

### **Using Native Plants to Create Your Special Place**

*Presenters: Adrian Konell and Linda Warren\*\**

Native plants are now a mainstream consideration in landscape designs. There are native plants available to suit every interest and situation. This class will present ideas to help you choose what is right for you in your yard. Whether it's pollinators, birds, butterflies, meadows, shade areas, or difficult wet or dry spots, there are good choices available. Many plant lists and references will be provided.

### **Seed Saving**

*Presenter: Rick Dittrich\*\**

In this session, Rick will cover the history of saving seeds, some basic terminology and how to save seeds from some of our more common annuals, perennials and vegetables. He will also discuss ways to check seed viability and how to properly save and store these seeds from one year to the next. Rick will talk about some of his experiences with trying to save that perfect seed, what worked for him and what didn't!

### **Keeping Honeybees**

*Presenters: Jim Biernasz, Tony Fetterly, Steve Biezski*

Learn about the fascinating world of beekeeping. Members of our local M&O Beekeepers will take you on a year's journey through the process for the first-time beekeeper, with a show and tell format.

### **Survival Gardening - The Herbal Chapter**

*Presenter: Jackie Johnson ND*

Given the economy, supply chain interruptions, shortages and blackouts, this might be the time to enlarge your garden or start one with the concentration on survival. Part of survival gardens includes basic herbs and how they can be used as both culinary and basic first aid when supplies are not a phone call or a trip to the store away. We'll discuss suggestions on what might be good additions and why, how to put them in useable form, store and use them. We'll touch on a few nutritious wild edibles you should learn to recognize and forage.

### **Straw Bale Gardening**

*Presenter: Thomas Mandli\*\**

Straw Bale Gardening is a substitution or addition to conventional or container gardening. Tom has been straw bale gardening for seven years and will share placement, conditioning and planting of bales. The presentation will be based on the Joel Karsten method of straw bale gardening and will include some personal twists from Tom's experience with this unique gardening method.

## **Session 3: 1:00 p.m.—2:15 p.m.**

### **Irresistible Irises**

*Presenter: Jill Reuss*

Enjoy the biggest, most beautiful blooms of spring! This class will help you learn to love irises of different varieties: Japanese Iris, Siberian Iris, German Iris and Dwarf Iris. You will also discover some tricks of the trade and how to overcome past growing issues to provide irises their fullest colorful potential.

### **Gardening in Raised Beds**

*Presenter: Belinda Collins, Michigan Advanced Master Gardener*

Gardening with raised beds can provide many benefits. Different types of raised beds will be explored as well as Belinda's own material selection and the uses for hoop house covers. Raised bed gardening tips and techniques for use throughout the season will be shared.

### **Pollinator Patches and You!**

*Presenter: Anne Bartels, Marinette County Land Information Department (Land & Water Conservation Division)*  
Anne will discuss the 'how-to' of installing small pollinator patches for habitat. Learn about the "P.I.G." project of 2020 (pollinator invitation gardens) and how she helped over 35 county residents, local organizations & businesses install pollinator habitats. A PowerPoint and handouts are included, as well as a visit to the UW-Marinette campus "P.I.G." garden if weather permits.

### **Got a Gardening Question? Ask a Master Gardener**

*A panel of Master Gardeners* will lead an open discussion to answer your gardening questions. Whether you're new to gardening or a seasoned veteran, we will do our best to help you improve your skills. Vegetables, fruit trees, perennials, native plants, soil, fertilizer, if it pertains to gardening, we are here to help. You're not going to want to miss what is sure to be a fun and educational session.

### **Successful Backyard Chickens**

*Presenter: Scott Reuss, Regional Crops/Soils Educator; UW-Madison, Division of Extension*

Gardens and chickens go together, to an extent. Managing a backyard chicken flock for egg and/or meat production along with multiple gardening endeavors in the same space does require some extra time, resources and effort. We will focus on the poultry aspects of small flock management but also showcase how they can work together with gardening efforts.

**\*\* Denotes: Northern Lights  
Master Gardener Volunteer**





## **Session 4: 2:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m.**

### **Outdoor Mushroom Growing 101**

*Presenter: Phoebe Krawczyk, Media Director at Field & Forest Products*

An overview on the possibilities of growing gourmet mushrooms! We'll touch on methods for growing mushrooms on logs as well as important tips for keeping your logs healthy. After covering forest fungi, we'll pivot to talking about how to grow mushrooms in the garden and companion planting fungi with other crops.

### **Inside Out: House Plants in the Garden**

*Presenter: Rob Zimmer, Nature and Garden Writer and Author, Radio Host*

Learn some amazing and creative ways to use indoor house plants in the garden during the summer gardening season. You'll learn a number of wonderful ways that you can incorporate your favorite house plants outdoors in the summer garden. Incorporating house plants (both foliage and flowering) outdoors in the garden is becoming a big trend and you'll understand why after viewing these exciting and creative possibilities! It may change the way you garden forever.

### **Properly Pruning Fruit Trees**

*Presenter: Scott Reuss, Regional Crops/Soils Educator; UW-Madison, Division of Extension*

Raising your own fruits provides amazing flavor and great nutrition. One management practice that needs to be performed annually on all fruit types is pruning. We will review pruning tools, timing, techniques and decision making for all of our northern-hardy fruit trees.

### **Workshop: Winter Sowing Native Seeds** Full

*Presenters: Adrian Konell and Linda Warren\*\**

Save space in your house and get a gardening fix in the middle of winter by sowing seeds in containers and putting them outside until the spring planting season. It's most often done in December or January, but winter sowing can still be successful in early spring. Learn the seed starting terminology of dormancy, stratifying and scarifying, and why they are all important. This method can also be used on non-native seeds. Take home a container of seeds to put outside that is ready to sprout in the spring. Seeds, containers and potting mix will be provided. Cost: \$5 (Limit: 20)

### **Workshop: Peace Post** Full

*Presenter: Mary Theis*

At this workshop you will paint on a 2 foot length of 4x4 wood post. Many examples and inspiration ideas will be available for you to create your own garden designs, quotes, words, whatever you love! Everything you need is included: paints and painting supplies, a 2 foot post, metal topper, length of rebar to support your post in the ground and inspiration! Cost: \$40 (Limit: 15)

### **Workshop: Creating an Air Plant Garden**

*Presenter: Penny Mullins, Owner, Penny's Plants & Pots, Menominee*

Participants will choose from a number of different colored sands, rocks, moss, shells and figurines, along with selecting an air plant, to design a 4-inch diameter glass globe. Instructions on caring for the plants will be provided. Cost: \$30 (Limit: 25)

### **Workshop: Cordials - A Delicious Repeat!** Full

*Presenter: Jackie Johnson ND*

Cordials or liqueurs have been around for hundreds of years as both a pleasant drink, medicinal or an after dinner digestive. We'll make them from plant material, alcohol and sugar syrup. You take them home to ferment and then enjoy! Our handout will have recipes you can make and give as very appreciated gifts! Cost: \$15 (Limit 16)

### **Conference Location**

University of Wisconsin Green Bay - Marinette Campus, 750 West Bay Shore St., Marinette, WI

### **Program Cost \$40**

This cost includes morning refreshments, 4 educational sessions and lunch.

*Workshops are subject to an additional cost.*

**Registration:** Pre-registration is required.

Complete the registration form and send with payment by **March 6<sup>th</sup>** to:

**Garden Conference  
c/o Extension—Marinette County  
1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette WI 54143**

*Walk-in registration is not accepted. Some classes are limited, so register soon.*

**Please make check payable to "NLMGAI"**

Registration is accepted on a first-paid, first-served basis. We reserve the right to cancel classes due to insufficient enrollment.

### **Refunds**

Refund requests must be received by **March 9<sup>th</sup>**.