



Glacial Gardeners Grapevine

Volume 23, Issue 3

March 2018

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TO DO LIST:

- Think about projects for next year—what we want to continue, what we want to discontinue
- Attend the meeting
- Start seeds for plant sale



GGMGVA MEETING MINUTES

GLACIAL GARDENERS MINUTES

February 13, 2018

Thirteen members thought the Curry Room in the Natural Resources Center in Florence was set up for someone else's meeting when we arrived there, but much to our amazement and pleasure, Sabrina and some of the UWEX staff had transformed the Curry Room into a Mardi Gras celebration! We were told they did this specially for the GGMGVA in appreciation for all we do for UWEX. There were metallic masks and beads, along with special treats and a big welcome sign just for us, and we are so grateful. It's very nice to be appreciated. Thank you, UWEX! **HAPPY MARDI GRAS!**

President Fleurette called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. with the following members in **ATTENDANCE:** Nancy, Lois Ann, Katy, Arlene J, Sharon, Keri, Jean, Jan, Connie, Kathy, Mary W, Karen, Fleurette and Sabrina, UWEX Office Manager.

Mary W moved, Nancy supported, and motion carried to accept Secretary Karen's January **MINUTES** as published in the GG's Grapevine.

Kathy moved, Mary W supported and motion carried to accept Treasurer Nancy's report of **ACCOUNT BALANCES.**

Those who are due "funny money" for bringing in their up-to-date **VOLUNTEER HOURS** were Nancy, Lois Ann, Sharon, Jean, Kathy, Mary W, and Fleurette.

UWEX: We were informed that if Sabrina makes any changes to our volunteer hours, she'll let us know. Thank you Nancy, for your work on updating the GG directory.

Correspondence was received from Karly Johnson, BS Dietetics Food-Wise Nutrition Coordinator, for Florence, Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties, UWEX, RE: a **FLORENCE COUNTY GROWING TOGETHER**

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Fleurette's Chat

NOTE FROM CHAIR March 2018

I always look out the office window for inspiration before I write this every month, but today the scene was so "same as last time", that I decided to go look out the other side of the house into the back yard.

It's really hard to even imagine what things are supposed to look like out there with all that snow. Some of the winter interest things are interesting – that giant grass I have at the back of the yard is slightly bent at the top and the color, while not bright, stands out against the snow beautifully. The forsythia bush is holding clumps of snow between the branches, the

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NEXT MEETING
"YARDENING" by
Margaret Gerhard
March 13 1:00pm
TUESDAY

(PLEASE Be there on time)



HOURS TO BE COUNTED—FOR FEBRUARY

- 1-1/2 Support hours for attending meeting + driving time
- Continuing Ed hours—1 hour
- any time for planting seeds for the plant sale

The Old Farmer's Almanac
February 2, 2018

Get inspired by Robin Sweetser's backyard gardening tips. Robin has been a contributor to The Old Farmer's Almanac and the All-Seasons Garden Guide for many years. She and her partner Tom have a small greenhouse business and also sell plants, cut flowers, and vegetables at their local Farmer's Market.

The seeds are rolling in, and if you are as eager to get the garden party started as I am, it is hard to refrain from starting them too early. When should you start your seedlings?

There is always some debate about when is the best time to start seeds indoors. If you plant seeds too early, you need to be prepared to keep potting them up into bigger pots.

I run a plant business with my partner and Memorial Day is usually our biggest plant sales weekend. So, we gear our seed starting to have the plants looking their best then. As soon as I get my new calendar in January, I turn to May and mark that weekend as ground zero. Then I number each Saturday back from there into February; 15 weeks is when we begin and as the season gets busy we even do some planting on Wednesday—hence the half weeks. As the seeds roll in we sort them by the number of weeks recommended on the packets.

Every location is different, but here's an example of the way we plant:

- Week 15 - Gazania & calibrachoa. We want these plants to be blossoming by the end of May.
- Week 13 - Onions, shallots, and slow-germinating perennials.
- Week 12 - Petunias & 'Profusion' zinnias.
- Week 11 - Impatiens & more perennials.
- Week 10 - Parsley, thyme, coleus, last of the perennials.
- Week 9 - Eggplant, snapdragons, cleome, hollyhocks, dahlias.
- Week 8 1/2 - Peppers. We grow about 50 varieties so they get a start day of their own.
- Week 8 - Cole crops, asters, stevia, salvias, nicotiana, and other slow to start annuals.
- Week 7 1/2 - Basil, cilantro & dill.
- Week 7 - Tomatoes. This is another marathon planting day since we grow over 80 varieties.
- Week 6 - Marigolds, cosmos, zinnias, lettuce, and fast starting annuals. Vines are planted in individual peat pots so they don't get their roots disturbed after they germinate.
- Weeks 4 & 5 - Cukes, squash, melons, and sunflowers (get started in individual pots instead of the community flats)

For your planting dates, look at the last frost date as your ground zero.

The Old Farmer's Almanac has a seed starting date calculator based on your last frost date, which makes it really easy.

It is best to err on the side of caution if spring is usually slow to arrive where you live. To avoid having leggy weak transplants, it is better to sow a little later than too early. Younger, vigorously growing transplants will make the transition to the garden much more successfully than spindly overgrown ones.

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MEETING MINUTES - cont'd

WI GRANT OPPORTUNITY. Katy moved, Kathy supported and motion carried to support the Growing Together WI Grant Opportunity. Deb volunteered to do the planting and maintenance with help from Jean, Nancy and Sharon of three garden beds in the Community Garden. Kathy will help with harvesting with focus on produce donations to the food pantry.

WIMGA: Dues are due. The **2018 COMMITTEE SIGN UP SHEET** was passed around again for those who missed it last month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification - Lois Ann passed around a materials estimate from Rain Makers Irrigation for the Gazebo Garden. An organizational meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, at the Spread Eagle Garden Center beginning at 1:00, to decide what needs to be done such as plant removal, etc. before digging begins for the irrigation system. An appreciation get-together is planned for all Gazebo workers and helpers in late May.

Scholarship - President Fleurette reported ten packets have been sent to schools in the four-county area RE: GG scholarship applications with postage paid for by Extension. Publicity will also be going out shortly.

Education -

- a) Seed Starting Workshop, SEGC, Thurs, Feb. 22, 6:00 p.m. Volunteers: Sharon, Nancy, Arlene, Jan.
- b) Florence Library Children's Program, Saturday, April 7 Volunteers: Deb, Nancy.
- c) Iron River Windsor Center Garden and Craft Show, Saturday, April 14 Tabled until March
- d) Beechwood Garden Seminar, Fri., April 20, 12:30-3:30 Volunteers: Sharon, Nancy, Fleurette

Sunshine - Jean reported many thank you notes were received, and Jean continues to send birthday cards to GG.

STEVE NELSON of the UWEX staff, stopped by to introduce himself.

OLD BUSINESS: Karen moved, Sharon supported and motion carried to invite **MARGARET GERHARD** to present a program for GG in March or April. Fleurette will follow up.

NEW BUSINESS: Sabrina and Kathy will research **PHOTOSHOP** options for possible use in preparing the GG Grapevine. This matter was tabled until March.

Kathy informed us that **LAKEWOOD** is looking for a speaker(s) to present a possible power point program at one of their meetings. Sharon and Nancy expressed interest in doing a program on Pruning Perennials in late April.

The **NORTHERN LIGHTS SPRING CONFERENCE** will be held in Marinette on March 24. Deadline to sign up is March 12.

Our homework before the March meeting, is to review the **ANNUAL PLAN** for 2018.

A **GARDEN TOUR** is being planned in the Crystal Falls area for July followed by a salad bar/dessert potluck at Fleurette's.

Kathy will e-mail a list of who's planting what for the **SPRING PLANT SALE**.

Members were reminded to pick up **SEED STARTING MIX AND POTTING SOIL** from Nancy's car before they leave.

OTHER: Welcome baby **EZRA HOLSWORTH**, born to Chelsey and Lane Holsworth of Iron Mountain. Lane is a former GG scholarship winner, so could we be honorary Godparents?

Katy moved, Jan supported and motion carried to **ADJOURN** at 2:50 p.m.

We watched an interesting video "**ONE GARDEN, TWO LOOKS**," a garden makeover in Toronto, Canada.





Gardening by the Moon

Gardening by the Moon is a great way to help plan your above and below ground crops. Here's how it works:

- Plant annual flowers and vegetables that bear crops above ground during the light, or waxing, of the Moon: from the day the Moon is new to the day it is full.
- Plant flowering bulbs, biennial and perennial flowers, and vegetables that bear crops below ground during the dark, or waning, of the Moon: from the day after it is full to the day before it is new again.
- The "Planting Dates" column gives the safe periods for planting in areas that receive frost. These dates are for Region 4, which encompasses central and northern Canada and Alaska. Our first frost is September 20, and our last frost is May 27 with a growing season of 115 days.
- The "Moon Favorable" column gives the best planting dates based on the year's Moon's phases.
- Above ground crops are marked: *
- (E) means early planting; (L) means late

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This article was taken from the Gardener's Almanac web page.



CAUTION:
Naughty children will be used as weed pickers!

Crop	Planting Dates	Moon Favorable
Beans (Early) *	May 30–June 15	June 13–15
Beets (Early)	May 25–June 10	May 30–June 10
Broccoli plants *	June 1–25	June 13–25
Brussels sprouts *	June 1–25	June 13–25
Cabbage plants *	June 1–25	June 13–25
Carrots (Early)	May 25–June 10	May 30–June 10
Carrots (Late)	June 15–July 8	June 29–July 8
Cauliflower plants (Early) *	June 1–25	June 13–25
Celery plants *	June 1–30	June 13–28
Corn, sweet (Early) *	May 30–June 20	June 13–20
Cucumbers *	May 30–June 15	June 13–15
Eggplant plants *	June 15–30	June 15–28
Endive (Early) *	June 1–25	June 13–25
Kale (Early) *	June 1–15	June 13–15
Kale (Late) *	June 25–July 15	June 25–28, July 12–15
Leek plants	June 1–25	June 1–12
Lettuce *	June 1–30	June 13–28
Muskmelons *	June 1–30	June 13–28
Okra *	June 25–July 7	June 25–28
Onion sets	June 1–25	June 1–12
Parsley *	June 1–15	June 13–15
Peas (Early) *	May 15–31	May 15–29
Peas (Late) *	July 10–25	July 12–25
Pepper plants *	June 1–30	June 13–28
Potatoes	June 1–25	June 1–12
Pumpkins *	June 1–30	June 13–28
Radishes (Early)	May 15–June 5	May 30–June 5
Radishes (Late)	July 10–31	July 10–11, July 28–31
Spinach (Early) *	June 1–25	June 13–25
Spinach (Late) *	July 20–August 5	July 20–27
Squashes *	June 1–30	June 13–28
Sweet potatoes	June 1–30	June 1–12, June 29–30
Swiss chard *	May 15–31	May 15–29
Tomato plants *	June 1–15	June 13–15
Turnips (Early)	May 10–31	May 10–14, May 30–31
Watermelons *	June 1–30	June 13–28

Bear in mind that small seeds usually take a lot longer to germinate than big ones, but germination time is usually on the packet. There might be a few seeds that need special treatment before planting so look for that when you are sorting them. You don't want to find out at planting time that the seeds needed a month in the fridge first. Been there, done that!



If you haven't ordered your seeds yet it is not too late.

See the Almanac's tips on starting seeds indoors. Also, are you using the Almanac's Garden Planner tool? It's amazing and free for the first week—enough time to plan out a garden and give it a go.

Plant Phenology

Prune Roses & Fertilize Lawns - when yellow Forsythia and Crocus start blooming

Plant Pansies, Snapdragons, and other hardy annuals - after the Aspens and Chokecherries leaf out

Plant Peas - when Daffodils or Forsythia begins to bloom

Plant Lettuce, Peas, and other cool weather crops (brassicas) - when lilacs show their first leaves or when daffodils bloom

Sow Cabbage and Broccoli seeds - when catalpa and mock oranges bloom

Plant Beans - when Lilacs are in full bloom, elm leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear, when oak leaves are the size of a mouse's ear, when apple blossoms begin to fall, or when dogwood is in full bloom

Plant Cucumbers and Squash - when Lilac flowers have faded

Plant Tomatoes, Early Corn, and Peppers - when Apple Blossoms begin to fall and Flowering Dogwoods are in peak and when Daylilies start to bloom

Plant Peppers and Eggplants outside - when Bearded Iris are in bloom

Plant Beets, Lettuce, Spinach, and Carrots - when Dandelions are blooming

Plant Potatoes - when serviceberry or Juneberries flower, when the shadbush flowers, or when dandelions are blooming

Sow Morning Glories -when Maple trees have full sized leaves."

If Daisies appear - there is no Calcium near

Grasshopper Eggs hatch - around the time purple Lilacs bloom

Eastern Tent Caterpillar eggs hatch - when the buds of Crabapples and Wild Plums open

Mexican Bean Beetle larvae appear - when Foxglove flowers open

Squash Vine Borers appear - when Chicory is in flower



PICTURE CORNER



FLEURETTE'S GREENHOUSE



KATHY'S GREENHOUSE



**THE GREENHOUSE
WE ALL DREAM OF!**

CHAT - cont'd

green house roof is piled high with snow. The feather reed grasses are swaying in the 20-mph wind. There are some "not found in nature" things that remind me of what is beneath them. I put a couple of old mangy tomato cages over my Empress Wu and Victory hostas because that area thaws first and the turkeys with their big old feet will come along and scratch and dig there if I don't do something to protect the root that is just under the ground. Another wire cage reminds me there is an oakleaf hydrangea there that I moved to a hosta bed to get some height, eager to see how that does this spring.

I've got my seeds and shoveled my way to the green house yesterday to retrieve cell packs and trays so I can start planting next week when I return from a short trip. Spring is more in my thoughts every day!

Before our meeting in March, Margaret will be coming to talk, looks like the "Yardening" presentation won the vote on which program. She will be starting at 1 p.m. so make sure you get there a little early so we are all ready to go by 1:00. The presentation lasts almost an hour, so we will hold the meeting immediately following.

If you are starting seeds, remember to bring a note to let Nancy know what you are growing!

See you soon,
Fleurette



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Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

MARCH

- 13 Glacial Gardener's MGV meeting 6pm.
Florence Resource Center, lower level.
YARDENING by Margaret Gerhard

- 24 Northern Lights 23rd annual Spring Garden Conference
Marinette, 8:00am - 3:30pm. Cost: \$40
Brochure: <https://marinette.uwex.edu/>

- 24 Outagamie Cty. Master Gardener Garden Conference
Kimberly, WI 8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Brochure: ocmga.net

APRIL

- 7 Florence Library Children's Program

- 20 Beechwood Garden Seminar

- 21 Bay de Noc Gardening Conference
Escanaba, 8am-4pm. Cost: \$38
Brochure: Bay de Noc Garden Conference Facebook page

