

Ogle County Master Gardeners February Minutes

Thursday, February 5, 2026, 10:00 am

Attendees: Jan Saglier, Mary Korth, Sarah Chisamore, Sara Pohl, Phil Bratta, Tracy Drobick, Marilynn May, and Tricia Delwiche

Volunteer Gateway

Kelli will be in contact with you if something is needed for Gateway.

Give Pulse

Travel time to a volunteer activity is reported as volunteer hours. Travel to attend a continuing education event does not count towards continuing education hours and should not be recorded. There are three options for entering hours into Give Pulse. You can enter your time via the website <https://illinois.givepulse.com/group/265981-University-of-Illinois-Urbana-Champaign> there is a phone app for Apple and Google, or you can keep a written summary (attached to email) and turn it into the Ogle office, at a monthly meeting, or email to me.

State MG Advisory Committee Opening

Applications due by 4/5/26

Seed Library

The seed library kick-off had roughly 50 attendees this year. An increase from the previous year. Activities included winter sowing with take home milk jugs, clay mosaic art project, microgreens with tasting, and interactive square foot gardening. Thank you to everyone who participated! Marilynn will ask for donations of seeds the end of July. Suggestions for next year are to keep the time at 12-2pm time slot, put the seed draws on a table for easier access, and add a food sampling or food/beverages. Mention youth activity in flyer. We discussed plastic containers and a cooler area at the library to store seeds. The raised bed used for Homegrown Healthy will be made into a pollinator pocket and registered. It will be used as a demonstration garden for seed collection class in the fall. The next seed work date will be Tuesday, February 10 at 3:30pm at the Flagg-Rochelle Library.

Ready, Set, Go

Day of event, 3/28, arrival time 7:30am. Friday set up from 1-3pm, optional.

Resource Table: Mary and Terri

Show and Tell Table: Plants out of Place (invasives sold at box stores) Tricia and Tracy. Traveling presentation will go to Russell Woods Education Center in Genoa after the event.

Prize Table: 2 prizes from each county, drawing winning tickets given at check in. Drawing after keynote speaker. Mary to secure Ogle contribution to the drawing.

NOTE! “MG volunteers for the day have always registered for the workshop if they want to attend classes. Good way for CE time. Your MG volunteers only need to be at the info table from 8-8:30 and maybe during the milk jug activity time. If they want to attend classes, then have them register (and pay) and get the ones they want. If they just want to volunteer, then they don’t need to register.”

Planning Meeting for 2026 Programming

- Speakers Bureaus
 - 4/30 Native Plants with Phil. 6:00pm at Julia Hull Library Stillman Valley.
 - 5/5 Starting Herbs with Phil. 6:00pm at Julia Hull Library Stillman Valley.
 - 5/13 Plant Propagation with Tricia. 10:00am at Rock River Center Oregon.
 - Date TBD - Phil and Marcia planning two youth programs at Mt Morris Library.

Rock River Center is currently seeking classes for April-May-June on Monday or Wednesday at 10 or 10:30 am start time. Other days by request.

- Farm Stroll - 10/11/2026
Phil and Terri expressed interest in manning a table.
- Farmers Market - Dates TBD
Tracy, Leslie and Terri expressed interest.
- July BloomFest – Dates TBD
Tracy, Terri and Phil expressed interest.
- Cypress House – Dates TBD
Merilynn, Sarah, Leslie and Terri expressed interest.
- Ogle County Fair – 7/29 to 8/2
Phil in for judging and Terri expressed interest in event

- Ogle County High Schools with Greenhouses and Plant Sales
Jan will contact Ag teacherx and see if there is a way to partner. Minimum supplying them with informational flyers, Help Desk information, and upcoming events
- Rochelle Green Thumbs 4-H (Mid May through August)

Floral.Focus.(7.vegetable.bed.and.0.floral.beds).DRAFT.Schedule

8nd.and.0th.Tuesdays.from.1:30-3:30At.Flaag_Rochelle.Library

Tracy?Phil?Tricia?Leslie.(seed.starting)?Hollie?and.possibly.Marcia.interested;

- March 24-Seed Starting
- April 14-Intro, 4-H Ambassador, Goals, Additional Seed Starting
- April 28-Landscape Design, Companion Planting, Additional Seed Starting
- May 12-Bring in flowers to dry, Experiment with different drying methods, flower art, dissecting
- May 26-Dried Flower Lanterns Art Project and ?
- June 9-Terrariums (with Horticulturist Bruce Black TBD)
- June 23-Fairy Gardens with Herbs with Ashley
- July 14-Photo Collages, Cut Flowers, Hollie (Extension) will talk floral arrangements
- July 28-(No Jodi) Celebration and Judges Announcements
- August 11-TBD
- August 25-TBD
- September 8-Clean Up Gardens

Field Trips

May: Edgerton WI Hospital Healing Garden and Rotary Garden – Date TBD

August: (Unit Wide Trip) The Gardens at Ball and Cantig Park, Chicago – Date TBD

Save The Date

Creating Simply Lovely Nature Art February 10, 2026 at 1:30-2:30pm. Four Seasons Gardening Webinar. <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2026-02-10-creating-simply-lovely-nature-art>

Wild Neighbors: Beavers Nature's Engineers February 11, 2026, 10:00-11:00 am at Rock River Center, Oregon. Presented by Educator Peggy (Doty) Anesi. Call 815-732-3252 to register.

How to Make Cordage from Nettle February 12, 2026, 9:00am at Boone County Extension office, 205 Cadillac Court, Belvidere. Presented by Educator Peggy (Doty) Anesi. Make and take one foot cord. Let Jan know if you plan to attend.

PBS Wisconsin's Garden & Green Living Expo February 13-15, 2026.

<https://wigardenexpo.com/>

Gardens Pathway Feb 28, 2026, 7:30am-3pm at DeKalb County Farm Bureau, \$50

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2026-02-28-gardeners-pathway-artisan-market>

Pruning Young Shade Trees March 3, 2026, 1:30-2:30pm. Four Seasons Gardening Webinar.

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2026-03-03-pruning-young-shade-trees>

Introduction to Hydroponics March 10, 2026, 10-11am at the Rock River Center, Oregon.

Make and take an indoor mason jar hydroponic planter. Register by calling RRC. Cost is \$10.

Wild Neighbors: Coyotes March 21, 2026, 9-10:30am at Boone County Conservation District, Free. Peggy Anesi presenting. Registration required. Limited seating.

<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/wild-neighbors-coyotes>

Ready, Set, Grow March 28, 2026, 8am-1pm at Sauk Community College, \$25

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 5:00pm at Flagg-Rochelle Library.