

Ogle County Master Gardeners March Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2026 5:00pm

Flagg-Rochelle Library

State MG Advisory Committee Opening

Applications due by 4/5/26 <https://extension.illinois.edu/mg/state-advisory-committee>

Seed Library

Marilynn will ask for donations of seeds the end of July. 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. **Jan has provided plastic bins.**

Ready, Set, Grow

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: Know What You Grow (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 has secured 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."**

****All RSG items to be delivered to the Ogle office by March 23 for Jan to pick up. ****

Thank you letters to sponsors.

2026 Programming

Speakers Bureaus

- 3/5 Starting Herbs with Phil. 6:00pm at Julia Hull Library Stillman Valley.
- 3/25 Kitchen Herb Gardens with Phil and Marcia. 6:00pm at Mt Morris Library.

- 5/7 Native Plants with Phil. 6:00pm at Julia Hull Library Stillman Valley.
- 5/13 Plant Propagation with Tricia. 10:00am at Rock River Center Oregon

Rock River Center is currently **seeking classes for June-July-August** on Monday or Wednesday at 10 or 10:30 am start time. Other days by request. **Bruce Black stated he maybe able to do a few classes this summer.**

Oregon Library, Debbie Herman, 815-732-2724, debbieh@oregonpubliclibrary.com

Summer MG Program for school age, 1st-5th and /or 5th-8th Plant a Seed Read one-hour hands on activity in **June or July (T-W-TH @ 1 or 2pm)** indoors or outside on picnic tables. Need program time and date in April for May newsletter. **We have access to a paper making kit if anyone is interested in making seed paper. Open to other ideas.**

Focus House Rochelle. Home with 7 to 9, 12-17-year-old, boys court order to be at the home. Interested in gardening program for the summer, June 1 through July 24. Possibly Fridays from 9:15-10, skipping 4th of July week. They will build and fill 3 to 4 2x8 raised garden beds for vegetables and a pollinator garden. They usually plant tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, hot peppers and zucchini. They will take full responsibility for weeding and watering. Unused produce will be put on a share table by the road as well as flowers for a donation. There will be one on one supervision for the boys. **MG group will take on this project. Planning date to be set.**

- 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 – July 18 & 19
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
Spring Flower and Plant Sale by Oregon Park District and OHS FFA May 10, 8am-1pm
Jan will contact Ag teachers and see if there is a way to partner. Minimum supplying them with informational flyers, Help Desk information, and upcoming events.
Partnering forwarded to Unit 2 Youth Development and New Audiences 4-H. Maybe they will help start plants for us next year.

- Fest by the Nest – 9/12
Saturday from Noon to 5 pm at Lowden State Park. Outdoor demonstration station for youth and adults. MG/MN
- Rochelle Green Thumbs 4-H (March through August)

Floral Focus (1 vegetable bed and 4 floral beds) DRAFT Schedule

2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 5:30-7 At Flagg-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

Order of some projects needs to be adjusted. Meeting with Ashley **THIS THURSDAY, 3/12/26 at 1:00pm at the Flagg-Rochelle Library to finalize schedule and put a shopping list together. All who are interested in helping with Green Thumbs are invited to attend.**

Field Trips

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

August: (Unit Wide Trip) The Gardens at Ball and Cantigy Park, Chicago – Tour schedule opens May 1st. First choice of dates is Friday, August 14th and second choice is Monday, August 17th.

April Meeting – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Ideas

We decided on pizza (Alfano's), salad, and an ice cream bar. Hollie Schultz-Oprian will talk about flower arrangements and one lucky winner will go home with her design.

Save The Date

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

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2026-03-28-2026-readyssetgrow-gardening-workshop>

Rock Valley Garden Center 785 N. Bell School Road, Rockford. Always has free to low-cost events year-round. <https://www.rockvalleygardencenter.com/education.html>

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 5:00pm at Ogle Extension Office.