2015 Dodge County Master Gardener Association
Monthly Educational Program Schedule

**January 22** – Project Year-in-Review by Master Gardener Volunteers of projects participated in during 2014, complete with photos and discussion.

**February 26** – Tree Diseases and the Emerald Ash Borer by Tim Eilbes. Tim Eilbes, a Professional Landscape Architect licensed with the State of Wisconsin with more than 12 years of experience in landscape design, construction and maintenance will discuss some invasive tree species and tree diseases common in Dodge County. One focus will be Emerald Ash Borer, its effects on the local Ash tree population, and control of the pest.

**March 26** – Heirloom Tomatoes and Tomato Friendly Herbs by Nino Ridgeway. Nino Ridgeway will introduce some of her favorite heirloom tomatoes and tips for growing tomatoes in Wisconsin. She will include the herbs that are most frequently used with tomatoes and talk about how to grow and pick them. Nino has a Ph.D in Entomology with a minor in Plant Physiology and Horticulture from UW-Madison. She has been farming since 1988 at Barthel Fruit Farm in Mequon, WI and helps run the orchard and strawberry business as well as owns and operates Herbs & Everlastings.

**April 23** – Annual Business Meeting. Association business, including presentation of certification cards, updates on all projects, the annual potluck plus finalizing plans for the annual plant sale.

**May 28** – Home Composting by Carol Shirk. Composting is a gardening task that causes unnecessary angst. It is actually a simple process occurring every day in nature. With a few simple pointers, every gardener can have a successful compost pile. Carol Shirk has been gardening for over 50 years. She took the Master Gardener training first in 1996 in Wisconsin and again in 1998 in North Carolina and is currently serving as the Dodge County Master Gardener Association president.

**June 25** – Pet Friendly Gardening by Dr. Vicky Smith. Dr. Vicky Smith, a veterinarian and practice owner at Wyllow Pet Hospital in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin reviews garden designing with pets in mind, avoiding plants and other gardening aids that can be harmful to pets, plants that your pet will enjoy, plant locations, water resources, and garden activities for pets. Resources for further information will be provided.

**July 23** – Tour Bryn-Teg Farm, Ashippun by Gary and Caryl Watterson. The acreage of BrynTeg Farm has been in the same family since 1963. They use all-natural, time-tested growing processes: Vegetables, herbs, and most fruits are grown free of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, and the apple orchard is maintained using integrated pest management (IPM). Produce is available through Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter CSA subscriptions, individual ordering, and the Delafield Farmers' Market. We will be touring the 13 acre farm, and sharing a snack potluck.

**August 27** – Landscaping with Native Plants by Lois Damerow. Native plants are beautiful, interesting, low-maintenance, and now, new research shows, essential for a healthy ecosystem. Drawing on her years as landscape designer and gardener, Loris Damerow, current president of the Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter, will share her enthusiasm for native plants and tout their importance in the home landscape.

**September 24** – Brighten Your Indoor Space with Living Plants by Patti Nagai. Gardening year round in your home can be a joyful learning experience (or a big mess!) Patti Nagai, the Horticulture Educator for Racine County UW-Extension will teach about selection and care of houseplants - tropical foliage, flowering plants, even citrus and herbs. Plants help create a healthier and more beautiful indoor environment, but only if they are in the right place and cared for to stay insect and disease free. Brighten your interior with plants and enhance your quality of life through the natural therapy of nurturing a productive, healthy plant.

**October 22** – Interaction between Plants and Insects by Gretchen Meyer. Plants and insects are linked in many ways. Plants with colorful flowers often rely on insects for pollination, but plants also must contend with the numerous insects trying to eat them. In the case of carnivorous plants, plants have turned the tables on insects and can trap and consume them! Gretchen Meyer, the Manager of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station, located at the Cedarburg Bog in Ozaukee County will cover these links between plants and insects, including pollination, herbivory and carnivorous plants, focusing on plants of Wisconsin.

**November and December** – No meeting. Happy Holidays!