



Digging in Dodge

Dodge County Master Gardeners Association

Issue 6

January Meeting

Our first meeting of 2006 will be on January 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street in Juneau. Matt Hanson, Crops and Soils Agent will be speaking on the topic of soils and why organic matter matters. Matt is an expert on the topic of soils and you won't want to miss the opportunity to have your questions answered. Matt recently received a national award for his work.

Meetings in 2006 will be on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We are working on having a variety of topics and speakers. Information for future meetings will be included in area newspapers.

Volunteer Hours

The Dodge County Master Gardeners completed over 20 projects in Dodge County in 2005. Volunteers completed 69 youth education hours, 91 community education hours, 536.5 support service hours,

and 859 continuing education hours. Ten people are newly certified Master Gardeners and six have been recertified. Fifty students completed the education program in the fall of 2005. Projects for 2006 will be discussed at our April meeting. We are planning a potluck at this meeting and will show slides of projects that we have worked on. We will also include a project list in our next newsletter.

Newspaper Column

Interesting and helpful gardening information can be found in the *Daily Citizen's* Home/Living Section which comes out the third weekend of the month. Area Master Gardeners write a column for this section covering a wide variety of gardening topics. The January column will cover websites with gardening information you won't want to miss. If you would like to write a future column, contact Lisa Traugher.

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February Garden Expo Trip

The Master Gardeners will be taking a bus to the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo on February 11, 2006. We will leave from the Administration Building parking lot, 127 E. Oak Street in Juneau, at 7:30 a.m. to travel to the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

The Expo will have 90 educational seminars and demonstrations on garden, lawn, and landscaping topics. Each hour there are 7-8 seminars to choose from on topics such as ornamental grasses, prairie gardens, water gardens, roses, heirloom gardening, pruning, hostas, perennials, vegetable gardening, and many more. You will also have a chance to meet Shelley Ryan, host of "The Wisconsin Gardener" on Wisconsin Public Television. There will be 435 exhibitor booths including garden centers, botanical gardens, and

landscaping firms. A 1,200 square foot garden display will give you some ideas for your own garden.

Lunch is on your own. There will be several vendors there where you can purchase lunch or you may bring your own.

We plan to leave the Expo at 4:00 p.m. and return to Juneau at approximately 5:00 p.m.

We will be taking a motor coach equipped with a bathroom. The drive takes just over an hour.

Cost of the trip includes bus, parking, and your admission ticket.

I expect this trip to fill up quickly so register early. Registrations must be received by February 1, 2006. If you have questions, call Lisa at 387-4741.

Home and Garden Tour

The Women's Service League is planning a home and garden tour July 20, 2006. If you are interested in having your garden in the Horicon or Mayville area included on the tour contact Paula Larsen at 387-5959.

April Election

If you are interested in being on the Board of Directors of the Dodge County Master Gardeners Association, we will be having our elections at the April meeting. Certified and intern Master Gardeners may be on the Board. Interns have completed the education requirement and are in the process of completing their volunteer service hours. There will be 3 Board positions up for election. One position is currently open. Contact Lisa Traugher if you would like to be on the ballot.

Trip Registration for the Garden Expo

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____ x \$24 each = \$ _____ enclosed.

Please make checks payable to the Dodge County Master Gardeners Association and mail with registration form to Lisa Traugher, 274A Mountin Dr., Mayville, WI 53050. Registration is due by February 1, 2006 to reserve your seat on this exciting trip!

Local Representative Needed

The Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) is a statewide organization whose mission is “to support and provide leadership to individual master gardeners and local organizations in their mission to assist the UW-Extension in community horticultural programs through volunteerism, education and environmental stewardship.”

The WIMGA is the communication link between MGs throughout the state and a voice for ideas and issues relating to the MG program. Members of the WIMGA Board of Directors sit on the WI MG Advisory Committee with UW-Extension Horticulture Specialists and Agents to recommend policy for the MG program.

WIMGA’s Board of Directors is made up of 15 dedicated MGs, with two representatives from each of the 6 UW-Extension districts plus three Members-At-Large. They meet monthly over the WisLine network and at least twice a year face-to-face.

Each member local association has a Local Representative. The District Representatives are elected to the WIMGA Board from and by the Local Representatives in each district. Each month the Local

Representatives receive a summary of the WIMGA Board meetings and other important information that they need to share with their local MGs. They can also be active in WIMGA by serving on committees.

The WIMGA offers educational opportunities, educational grants, and support to local associations.

If you are interested in being the local representative for our Dodge County Association contact Lisa Traugher. We will then apply for membership in the state Association.

All those who attended the fall education program in 2005 paid state Association dues as part of your registration fee. You will be an individual member of the state Association in 2006. You will receive the state newsletter in January.

Certified MGs and recertified MGs need to pay your \$5 fee to Helen Weisensel by January 26, 2006, if you want to be an individual member of the state Association in 2006. Helen will send the payment to the state Association for us.

“Gardeners, I think, dream bigger dreams than emperors.”
Mary Cantwell

Poinsettia Care

Poinsettias should last for several weeks with the proper care. Some varieties will stay attractive for months.

Place your poinsettia in indirect light. Six hours of light daily is ideal. Make sure the plant does not touch cold windows.

Keep your poinsettia away from warm or cold drafts from radiators, air registers or open doors and windows.

Poinsettias love daytime temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees and night time temperatures around 55 degrees. High temperatures will shorten the plant’s life. Move it to a cooler room at night, if possible.

Check the soil daily. Punch holes in the foil so the plant can drain into a saucer. Water the plant when the soil is dry. Allow the water to drain into the saucer then discard the excess water.

Apply a houseplant fertilizer once a month. Do not fertilize your poinsettia when it is in bloom.

With a little care, you can enjoy your poinsettia long after the holidays.



Dodge County Master Gardeners Association

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www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/dodge



Board of Directors

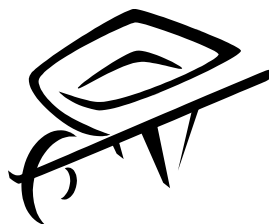
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*“Half the interest of a garden is
the constant exercise of the
imagination.”
Mrs. C.W. Earle*