Digging in Dodge

2013 is here! And, we have a lot of new things in store for the Dodge County Master Gardener Association.

But, first we have had to say goodbye to a wonderful interim Ag Extension Agent. Dave Laatsch ended his tenure in December. To say that he did a wonderful job for our organization would be an understatement and he will be sorely missed. We will have the opportunity to see him again when we take tour of his farm and gardens in July.

Mike Stanek is our new Ag Extension Agent. He hails from Baraboo and comes from the Sauk County Land Conservation Department. Join me in welcoming him to our county.

We have several new projects that will begin in 2013. Several Master Gardeners worked on a landscape plan for a display garden at the Administration Center. Dave Laatsch and I presented it to the County Administrator, Jim Mielke and the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Russ Freber in December. They “enthusiastically approved” the plan and gave us $500 to put it in place. They will help prepare the ground and the rest is up to us. We will begin the process in April, weather permitting. Watch your inboxes for more information on how you can be involved in this exciting project.

Dave and I also met with Corrections Supervisor Aaron Ellis and Lt. Tony Brugger to discuss the possibility of our organization working with inmates at the Dodge County Correctional Facility. They currently have two 35X35’ raised beds in which they grow vegetables to supplement the 1200 meals/day they serve. They also have a 20’ greenhouse that currently serves as a storage shed that we will be working on making functional.

And, after getting ideas from Columbia County Master Gardener Association, we were able to secure a promise of a booth at the Dodge County Fair, with electricity, tables, and chairs provided. This booth will be staffed only in the late afternoon and early evening. Diane Hemling is heading up this project and will be looking to some of you to serve on a planning committee as well as others to take shifts during the fair.

Carol
2013 Projects

Master Gardeners will be working on various projects in Dodge County this year. Projects are underway in Beaver Dam, Horicon, Juneau, Mayville, Neosho, Watertown, and Waupun. Each project has a Master Gardener who coordinates the work. A complete and updated list of projects with contact person information is available from our website or from Carol Shirk (920) 387-5105.

Upcoming Meetings

Anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome to attend the following free programs. Master Gardener meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau.

January 24
2012 Year in Review

Master Gardener Volunteers will review projects participated in during 2012, complete with photos and discussion.

February 28
Prairie Ecology & History in Wisconsin

Rich Henderson, an ecologist for WDNR Bureau of Science Services, will introduce us to the origins of Midwest prairie and the plants and animals that constitute the prairie ecosystem and how those species interact.

March 28
Small Fruit Production for the WI Home Gardener

Lisa Wasko DeVetter a graduate student in the Dept. of Horticulture at UW-Madison will speak about the management of grapes, strawberries, and bramble crops for the home gardener.

April 25
Annual Business Meeting

Association business, including presentation of certification cards, updates on all projects, finalizing plans for the annual plant sale, plus the annual potluck.

Master Gardener Websites

http://www.wimastergardener.org/  http://www.wimastergardener.org/?q=Dodge
http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/
Continuing Education Opportunities

During the next few months, there are many opportunities to earn continuing education hours or to find a cure for cabin fever. The Wisconsin Master Gardener website is a great source for finding upcoming events statewide. Classes covering a variety of topics can also be found at the websites for Olbrich Botanical Gardens, UW-Fond du Lac Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum, Moraine Park Technical College, and Horicon Marsh International Education Center. If you prefer to be outside and explore the beauty of winter, Olbrich’s Outdoor Gardens are still open to experience a “bright white winter wonderland.”

February 2, 2013
Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams Conference, Oshkosh, WI

The Winnebago Co. MGA is hosting their annual seminar from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Reeve Memorial Union on the UW-Oshkosh Campus. Featured speakers are Michael Yanny, plant propagator from Johnson's Nursery in Menominee Falls, and Sharon Morrisey, Consumer Horticulture Agent and MG advisor with UW-Extension, Milwaukee Co. Topics include native trees and shrubs, small space vegetable gardening and the development of new trees and shrubs. For more information and a registration form, go to www.winnebagomastergardeners.org or call (920) 231-5745.

February 8-10, 2013
WPT's Garden Expo, Madison WI

Sponsored by Wisconsin Public Television, Friends of WHA-TV, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Team, this event draws nearly 16,000 people to view 400 booths, provided by numerous exhibitors over 100,000 square-feet. Numerous educational seminars, demonstrations, and workshops are offered on a variety of horticultural topics. Hours are Friday 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., in the Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center. An admission fee is charged to this fundraiser to support WI Public TV programming (including The WI Gardener). For more information on educational offerings, or to buy tickets online visit www.wigardenexpo.com.

February 20, 2013
Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum, UW Fond du Lac, Room UC114 University Center
Plants in Winter: Surviving the Big Chill

The plants of temperate and boreal regions have many adaptations that allow them to survive the extremely low temperatures and drought of winter. Dr. Jim Reinartz will explore a wide variety of topics related to plant life in winter, particularly our woody plants that can't escape freezing and drought associated with extreme cold by living under the snow or soil. Program starts at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

March 23, 2013  9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Pruning Pointers Workshop
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Pruning is essential to the optimal health of trees and shrubs, but it is feared even by experienced gardeners. Join Olbrich’s Director of Horticulture Jeff Epping as he dispels the fear by teaching when, where, and what to cut. He will discuss pruning techniques and then demonstrate on live trees and shrubs in the outdoor gardens. Dress appropriately for the weather. Space is limited; register early.

Registration Deadline: March 14  20-09 $45/$36 member

For more information on classes or registering visit www.olbrich.org or call (608) 246-4550

Answer to trivia question—tomato
De-icing Salt & Plants

De-icing salt is used on roadways, driveways and sidewalks. Most de-icing salts are sodium chloride – ordinary rock or table salt. High concentrations of sodium and chloride are toxic to plants. Near roadways, salt is sprayed on plants by passing vehicles, in other places where salt laden snow has been shoveled or plowed; the salt is absorbed into the soil.

Salt spray and salt in the soil will harm the plants differently. Salt spray causes dehydration of plant tissue, impairing the tissue’s ability to survive the winter. Salt in the soil changes soil structure, and may take several years to deplete plant nutrients and prevent the plant’s roots from taking up water. A soil test or plant tissue test may be done at the UW-Extension office to confirm salt injury.

To reduce salt injury to plants, use smaller amounts of salt or mix the salt with sand, cinders, or kitty litter. Other options include selecting plants that have a higher salt tolerance to use along roadways and sidewalks, placing barriers such as a snow fence or burlap around plants to reduce exposure to salt spray, and avoid shoveling salt laden snow over or around plants. In spring, flush areas that may have a high salt concentration with water to move salt away from the plant’s root zone.

For more information on this topic, see the UW-Extension’s publication, A3877 Winter Salt Injury & Salt Tolerant Landscape Plants, which covers symptoms of salt damage, and lists some common plants and their tolerance to salt.

Landscape Pesticide Registry

It’s time to sign up for the Landscape Pesticide Registry for the 2013 growing season. You can request that companies notify you when they are going to apply pesticides to lawns, trees and shrubs on the block where you live, or on blocks immediately adjacent to yours.

From Nov. 1 through Feb. 1, you can register online at http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov. Participation in the registry is free.

Signing up is a two-step process:
1. You will register, providing your email address, street address and telephone number, and set up a password.
2. Enter the addresses for which you want notification. Unless you complete both steps, businesses will be unable to notify you. The password will provide you access to see what addresses you’ve entered and edit that information.

If you signed up for the registry last year, you will receive a reminder email from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to renew your participation.
Save the Dates

March 8 & 9
Beaver Dam Home and Business Expo
Wayland Field House, Beaver Dam

May 18
Annual Plant Sale
Administration Building, Juneau

June 15
Annual Field Trip
Paine Arts Center & Gardens in Oshkosh. A guided tour of the mansion and gardens. The Art Center is featuring Chihuly: Venetians...an incredible exhibit of blown glass pieces from Dale Chihuly.

August 14—18
Dodge Co. Fair
Beaver Dam

August 16 & 17
WIMGA Annual Conference
UW-Rock Co. Janesville WI

September 14
15th Annual Old Time Gathering
Dodge Co. Fairgrounds
Beaver Dam

October 12
4th Annual Photo Contest
Administration Building, Juneau

"Dear Mr. Meyer,
Thank you for coming to our school and donating the composting bin to us. We really like it. It was very generous of you.

I learned how to compost. I learned that you have to have browns, greens, water and really dead leaves to make most of the compost. Thank you again for coming." Student at S.A.G.E.S.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING RECEIPT OF NEWSLETTERS!

Postage costs of mailing out newsletters continue to be a large part of our expenses. Therefore, the decision has been made to charge those receiving the newsletter via regular mail and not a member of the Dodge County Master Gardener Association, a small fee. Remove the tear strip below and send it to Brenda Wenzel at the UW-Extension, Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, WI 53039. Make checks payable to: Dodge County Master Gardener Association or DCMGA

PLEASE NOTE: You need to respond, or you WILL be deleted from the mailing list and will NOT receive future issues of this newsletter. Again this is for non members only. Members receive the newsletter as part of their membership dues.

Name:_________________________________ Phone Number______________________________
Address________________________________ City__________________________________________

☐ Switch to receiving newsletter via e-mail (Free) E-mail address ____________________________

☐ Receive the quarterly paper copy of Digging in Dodge $5

☐ Become a “Friend” of the DCMGA and receive the quarterly paper copy of Digging in Dodge. PLUS stay informed between newsletters with extra emails sent by the president with announcements of upcoming events $7
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Crops and Soils Agent
UW-Extension Office
(920) 386-3790

Carol Shirk
President
(920) 387-5105

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(920) 326-2219

Jan Krause
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(920) 261-7939

Terry Zimmerlee
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(920) 885-2137

Berwyn Westra
Local Record Keeper
(920) 326-3885

Al Krause
Local Representative to the WIMGA
(920) 261-7939

Backyard
Photo by Al Krause

Dodge County Master Gardener Association

UW-Extension, Administration
Building 127 E. Oak Street,
Juneau, WI  53039

Phone: (920) 386-3790