Sprinkled throughout this catalog, you will find the “NEW” logo on such things as red brussels sprout, cold hardy asparagus, peppermint chard, spicy arugula, high yield popcorn, sunny hedge blend sunflower, multiple roses, and more.

Another item that appeared in my mailbox right before Christmas was the magazine, Wisconsin Gardening (available at www.wisconsingardeningmag.com). This issue covered some new things in 2014, including the top new shrubs to try. Three new varieties of the popular hydrangea appear on the list, including the Endless Summer BloomStruck Hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla ‘PIIHM-II’). This new variety will have deep violet purple blooms in acidic soil, but rose pink ones in more neutral soil. The blooms sit on dark red stems with glossy green leaves. Bobo Hydrangea (Hydrangea paniculata ‘ILVOBO’) got positive reviews with its plethora of lacy, white upright blooms on sturdy stems. As the flowers age, they turn to a soft pink. Mature height for this variety is 3 feet, so it will be ideal for smaller spaces or even container gardening. Another compact hydrangea making the list is Strawberry Sundae (Hydrangea paniculata ‘Rensun’) at a height of 4-5 feet. This one is loaded with creamy white flowers that fade to pink and then strawberry red as the weather turns cooler.

Begin planning now for a great garden this season and be sure to try something new. Happy gardening!

Carol
2014 Projects

Master Gardeners will be working on various projects in Dodge County this year. Projects are underway in Beaver Dam, Horicon, Juneau, Mayville, 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 23 - Project Year-in-Review by Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) of projects participated in during 2013, complete with photos and discussion.

February 27 - Northwest America Garden Tour by Gail Nampel. A MGV for ten years, Gail joined 30 other MGVs and garden enthusiasts to tour Vancouver and Vancouver Island. She will present photos and a tour description of this region. Besides the well-known Butchart Gardens, she visited the University of BC Botanical Garden, Van Dusen Botanical Gardens, Nitobe Japanese Garden, Government House Garden, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden, and the private gardens of Lily Maxwell and Birgit Piskor.

March 27 - How to Plant a Native Meadow or Garden by Randy Powers. Randy Powers, Reconstruction Ecologist and President of Prairie Future Seeds will teach about growing wildflowers. Understanding essential concepts is vital to successfully planting a native meadow or garden. Powers will present the nine most important concepts, with examples for each to help better understand how to succeed with your own wildflower planting. Learn how to help save our native plant heritage, become a steward of your natural landscape and make good selections for existing planting conditions, rather than modifying to accommodate exotic species.

April 24 - 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.

Master Gardener Websites

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

Photo by Carol Shirk
Events of Interest

During the next few months, there are many opportunities to earn continuing education hours or to find a cure for cabin fever.

Take a class on Permaculture Gardening Techniques at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, or From Seed to Flower at the UW-Fond du Lac Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum.

Visit Rooms of Blooms at The Paine Museum and Gardens in Oshkosh (www.thepaine.org ) or take a short drive to The Domes in Milwaukee to see the Gas Lamp Express—Garden Train Show.

Enjoy a Spring Thaw Walk at the Horicon Marsh or get a new perspective on nature by taking a night time hike on the marsh (www.horiconmarsh.org).

Attend the Spring Thaw Symposium at Green Bay Botanical Gardens or one of the other conferences and symposiums across the state.

Information on many of these events and more can be found at the Wisconsin Master Gardener Website.

WPT’s Garden Expo

Feb 7-9, 2014  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.

Certified MGVs will assist UW-Extension Specialists and Agents in answering questions in the UW-Extension booth. Numerous educational seminars, demonstrations, and workshops are offered on a variety of horticultural topics.

Hours are Fri 4:00-9:00, Sat 8:00-6:00, and Sun 10:00-4:00. in the Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center. An admission fee is charged to this fundraiser to support WI Public TV programming.

For more information visit WPT's Garden Expo website.

WIMGA Annual Conference

March 28 - 29 ~ GARDEN EXPECTATIONS, Appleton WI

The Annual Conference is hosted by the Outagamie County Master Gardener Association. The public is encouraged to attend this educational, idea inspiring and entertaining event.

Dan Heims, President of Terra Nova Nurseries will be the keynote speaker for the event.

Registration is now open for the conference. The Outagamie County Master Gardener Association website oocmga.net/2733.aspx includes the conference brochure, on-line registration, a schedule of the breakout sessions, information about the presenters, and lodging information.

The raffle item this year is a beautiful Wisconsin “Wildflowers” quilt handcrafted by one of their own Master Gardeners. It is an incredible and beautiful one-of-a-kind piece of art you have to see to fully appreciate. Raffle tickets are available through WIMGA State Representatives. Our representative is Al Krause.

Register now to get the early bird rate!
Mystery Master Gardener

I've been a Master Gardener Volunteer for about 7 years and greatly enjoy the members and activities. Most of the projects I've been involved with include work around a lake environment, although writing hopefully helpful articles is also something I enjoy.

When not gardening, I spend hours doing cross stitch projects which my husband frames. Being a church organist and choir director has been part of my life for more than 30 years. However, when possible, I spend as much time as possible working in our yard concentrating mostly on flowers and other plantings which are attractive to monarch butterflies.

Winter Sowing

By Dorothy Legler, Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association

Many gardeners have never heard of “winter sowing”. The seeds of most native plants need a prolonged period of cold in order to germinate. Winter sowing is a fun alternative to planting seeds indoors under lights or on window sills. It involves planting seeds in containers and leaving them outdoors. This includes hardy annuals, perennials, biennials, shrubs and tree seeds. It's important to keep records of when and what you planted. January and February are the best times to plant.

Any container will work, but 1 gallon milk jugs are great. Cut the jug horizontally in half, just below the handle, leaving some attached to make a hinge. Poke drainage holes in the bottom and fill with moistened potting soil 1” below the cut edge. Plant seeds and seal the jug closed with clear packaging tape. Make sure to label them. Leave the cap off. Set the jug outside in a location that is sunny and has exposure to rain and snow. Try putting the jug on a deck, or picnic table or bench. To keep it from blowing away, you can put four in one of those plastic crates with open lattice sides and bottom.

As the weather warms you may have to open the jug by day and close at night. Leave the jugs open when the danger of frost is past, and then transplant. You will perhaps have some failures and hopefully lots of success; so keep records. check out the many sites and information on the internet on how to winter sow.

Printed with permission from Dorothy Legler of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association. Article was in the Oct/Nov 2013 Badger ButterFlyer newsletter.

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.”
- Anne Bradstreet
Save the Dates

May 17
DCMGGA Annual Plant Sale
Administration Building, Juneau WI

November 1
DCMGGA Fall Symposium
Horicon Marsh International Education Center

The Winter Garden

Winter gardens bring their own beauty to the season. Trees and shrubs stand out in the winter landscape with their structure and bark. Oaks, maple, spruce, and the pagoda dogwood add structure and architectural patterns against the winter sky or when outlined with a fresh snowfall. The distinctive barks of birches and dogwoods enhance the winter landscape with their striking appearance or bright colored stems.

A variety of trees and shrubs have berries that provide a pop of color to the winter landscape. The colorful fruits of American cranberrybush viburnum and winterberry remain on the plant throughout the winter along with certain crabapple cultivars. The berries and fruit are also a source of food for birds during the winter.

Evergreens are often considered the backbone of the garden, providing texture, structure, color, and a focal point to the landscape. Spruces, pines, and junipers are the most common evergreens, but there are many unique varieties such as the Douglas fir, Bar Harbor Juniper, or the dwarf Bird’s nest spruce, that are available to liven up the yard.

Dried seed heads from perennials lack color, but they do provide texture and interest to the garden. If left in place, hydrangeas, coneflowers, and sedums, provide winter appeal and seeds for small birds.

Ornamental grasses also provide shape, texture, color, movement and sound to the winter garden. Little Bluestem’s foliage turns reddish or a coppery color for the winter, while the foliage of Prairie dropseed turns yellow-orange. Many grasses provide winter food and cover for birds and other wildlife.

A wooden fence, bench, or arbor may also provide interest by adding structure and form to the garden. Add a bright color of paint for a pop of color. Make sure garden statues and pottery in the winter garden can withstand the cold weather. Include a bird feeder to attract birds that also add color and interest to the winter garden.

Structure and form, distinctive bark, fruit, seed heads, and ornamental grasses are features to look at for beauty and interest in the winter garden. Find inspiration for your winter garden by looking around the neighborhood or visiting a botanical garden. With proper planning, winter gardens can be enjoyed outside on a nice winter day, or from inside your home looking out your favorite window.

Chris Jacobs, Dodge Co MGV

The Mystery Master Gardener is......

Gae Bergmann
Thank you Gae for being our Mystery Master Gardener.
Did you learn something new about this Master Gardener? We are a very diverse group with wonderful members. Introduce yourself the next time you see Gae and meet one of the many smiling faces that makes our association so great.
2014 Master Gardener Volunteer Training

Level 1 Training

Level 1 Training is available for those interested in becoming a Certified Master Gardener Volunteer.

Dodge County UW-Extension will offer a 13-week Level 1 Master Gardener Volunteer Training from 6:00 uv-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings beginning March 4, 2014 and concluding in late May. Training will be held at the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street in Juneau. This program is only offered every other year.

The program cost is $140 and includes training and a comprehensive set of UW-Extension horticulture publications. The training is open to the general public and participants must be at least 18 years of age. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis and class size is limited to 40 participants. Registration deadline for the class is Monday, February 17, 2014 or until the class is full. To register or for more information call the Dodge County UW-Extension Office at 920-386-3790.

Level 2 Training ~ Branching Out

Level 2 Training is available to Certified Master Gardener Volunteers and meets continuing education requirements.

Mike Maddox will be doing a Level 2 training on his favorite topic .... TREES!
Here is what is known about the training

- There will be at least 12 hours of continuing education available.
- Dr. Laura Jull is slated to present on tree diversity and selection.
- Dr. Chris Williamson will update us about EAB; including how MGVs should respond to EAB inquiries.
- Kimberly Miller is working with the WI DNR Urban Foresters for a module on the benefits of trees.
- Mike Maddox will do a module on tree identification.
- Mike will also be hosting 4 optional tree identification workshops at a couple arboreta’s in the area.

MGVs will have an opportunity to earn community education volunteer hours by opting to participate in a virtual leaf collection.

Estimated cost is to be around $30 per person. Registration will be available in mid-January with the class being online by the end of March/early April.

Mandated Reporter Online Training

With the implementation of Executive Order 54 - mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect - all UWEX staff and volunteers are required to complete mandatory reporter online training.

All Master Gardeners are required to complete this training. Even though you may not volunteer with youth, you have the potential to interact with youth. No exceptions.

Please complete the online training. At the end of the training you will have an option to print a certificate of completion. Please do so and turn it in to your local county UWEX office to keep on file. The training can be counted as 1.0 hours continuing education. The training must be completed before October 1, 2014. It is expected this is to be completed if you wish to continue with the program into 2015.

Mandated Reporter Online Training
History of the Master Gardener Program

The Master Gardener (MG) program started in 1972 in the state of Washington and is now in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It’s an all-volunteer organization with the main purpose of providing university and research based information to the public about a wide variety of horticulture topics.

With rapid urban growth and a growing interest in gardening, extension agents were over-whelmed with answering gardening questions from home gardeners. The Master Gardener program was created by David Gibby, a horticulture agent with the Washington State Cooperative Extension. His goal was to develop trained volunteers to assist extension agents in educating residents in the community on horticulture.

In the late 1970’s, Dr. Helen Harrison and Dr. Bob Tomesh, professors with the University of Wisconsin, started the MG program here in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin MG program is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Extension. In 1992 local MG groups joined together to form the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA). There are over 2,980 trained MGVs in Wisconsin who are certified/recertified for 2014.

Lisa Traughber worked with Jim Fanta, the Dodge County UW-Extension Crops and Soils Agent to form the Dodge County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) in 2004. In 2006 the DCMGA joined the WIMGA. There will be 34 certified/recertified MGVs for 2014.

The Master Gardener program is more than a horticulture class or a garden club. Master Gardener Volunteers are trained to assist UW-Extension in their mission of public education. Most MGVs belong to their local MG association which promotes the educational nature of the program.

Being a MGV is a rewarding experience. It’s an opportunity to share your love of gardening, apply your current knowledge and skills, meet new people, and continue to learn more about gardening and horticulture.

Reminder!

If you receive Digging in Dodge via the United States Postal service and are not a member of the Dodge County Master Gardener Association it is time to submit your $5 to continue to receive the newsletter. If you would like to switch to email, the newsletter would be free. 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 ____________________________ |

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