



Digging in Dodge

Dodge County Master Gardener Association

Issue 24

A Note from our President

When I assumed the position of president of Dodge County Master Gardener Association in April 2010, it was not without some fear and trepidation. This is a relatively new organization and as such has had just two past presidents, Lisa Traugher and Gail Nampel. These ladies presided with grace and efficiency. In many ways they reminded me of ice skaters who glide across the ice making every movement appear effortless. I was pretty sure I was in over my head. However, I was rescued by being supported by a dynamite Board of Directors. We met this last November and spent some time putting together plans for 2011. And have we got the plans for you!

This year we will start our meetings out by reviewing all the projects we worked on in 2010 complete with pictures and a short explanation of the work completed. From there, we have speakers lined up who will bring you presentations on attracting wildlife, getting rid of unwanted insects, growing beautiful roses, attracting bees, designing landscapes, developing a Junior Master Gardener program, and diagnosing plant diseases.

But, we did not stop with just the meetings. We are also bringing back the photo contest in a bigger and better form. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 27th. More details will follow, but get your cameras pol-

ished up and ready to begin snapping those prize winning photos!

We also have a wonderful tour planned. On June 11, 2011 we will be going to Allen Centennial Gardens, Babcock Hall Dairy Store (for gourmet ice cream!), and Olbrich Gardens in Madison. Watch this newsletter and your local newspaper for more details later, but mark your calendars for this important date.

In addition, we are planning on having a Culver's Share Night at the Beaver Dam and Waupun locations and participating in the Waupun Home Show and Old Time Gathering. These events as well as more that come along will give us opportunities to inspire others to love gardening the way that we all do.

Happy Gardening!

Carol

2011 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 (387-5105).

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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 27

Project Review

Various Master Gardeners

A review of the projects Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteers participated in during 2010, complete with photos and discussion. Come review the old and find out how you can get involved this year.

February 24

"The Bugs are Winning"

Phil Pellitteri

Phil, a Distinguished Faculty Associate from the UW Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab will give us a brief review of what the major insect concerns of 2010 were and what to watch for in 2011. He will also give us ideas about organic insect control in the yard and garden

March 24

Junior Master Gardener

Barbara Larson

Barb, a Kenosha County UW-Extension horticultural educator will explain what the Junior Master Gardener program is, how to get it established, and how to keep it running smoothly

April 28

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 26

Solve a Landscape Problem

Various Master Gardeners

Individuals will be invited to submit their home landscaping problems and will be given assistance from Master Gardeners. Participants will be required to provide photos, measurements, sunlight/shade restrictions, etc. Submission forms will be available at <http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/> on April 1st. The deadline for submitting a landscape problem is May 1st. Workshop is limited to 10 participants, on a first come/ first served basis. A sample plan (just measurements, no plants) will be provided for those who don't bring a plan and want to practice designing a landscape.

June 23

"Honey Bees and Me—and You!"

Jeanne Malterer

Jeanne, an award winning beekeeper, has been beekeeping since 2003. She will explain how and why she began doing so and will also tell us how a colony works and what humans gain from honey bees.



Upcoming Events

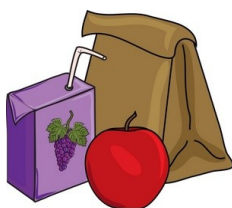
- The Association for Home and Community Education (HCE) is hosting a "Berry Bonanza" meeting at 4:00 on Wednesday January 26, 2011. Dick Zondag of Jung Nursery in Randolph is speaking on the "Art of Growing Healthy Berries". All attendees are invited to bring their favorite berry recipe along with a copy of the recipe. The meeting will be held in Dodge County Administration Building Auditorium. Please call the Extension Office at 386-3790 by January 17th to register for the session.
- Orchid Quest 2011, sponsored by the Madison Orchid Growers' Guild, will be held at Exhibition Hall the Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI. The show is Saturday February 5, 10AM to 5 PM and Sunday February 6, 10 AM to 4 PM. One day entry fee is \$7.00 and two day pass is \$10.00. Senior discount honored. Children 12 and under are free. Questions contact: 608-231-3163 or check our website at <http://orchidguild.org/>
- 2011 Wisconsin Public Television and the UW-Extension Horticulture Team Sponsored Garden Expo at the Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, Madison on February 11-13. Hours are Fri 4:00-9:00, Sat 8:00-6:00, and Sun 10:00-4:00. Seminars, demos, workshops, and hundreds of exhibitors. Entry fees vary. More information available at: <http://www.wigardenexpo.com/>

Brown Bag Programs

January 28th kicks off the 2011 Brown Bag Program. The first topic for the year will be "2010 Fruit Production :The Year in Review". The last Friday of every month (with some exceptions due to holidays...see the listed dates) at the Administration Building in Juneau an educational program is offered. These programs are specifically geared toward statewide Master Gardeners and other persons interested in horticultural topics. These teleconference programs generally last from 12-1 p.m. so, bring your lunch along and join in!

Programs will be offered on the following dates with topics to be announced at a later date:

- February 25
- March 25
- April 29
- May 20
- June 24
- July 29
- August 26
- September 30
- October 21
- November 11
- December 16



For more information about a specific program, see:
www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener
("For MGVs" tab)

Remember, archived Brown Bag meetings from the past year can be accessed from:

<http://dodge.uwex.edu/mastergardener/>

Annual Plant Sale

The annual plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st from 8-11 am. You can begin preparing now by repotting any house plants that need dividing and letting them recover from transplant shock. As we near the spring gardening season and you are preparing to dig plants to donate, please be sure to plan ahead. Dig your donations several weeks in advance in order to allow the plants to recover from transplant shock and look their best. It is hard to sell wilted, sorry-looking plants!

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Three species of stingless wasps have been raised in a Michigan USDA lab to combat the Emerald ash borer (EAB). These wasps are the natural parasite of EAB in Asia, destroying 50-90% of the larvae and eggs they encounter in China. Extensive research was done to ensure that the wasps are very host specific and only feed on EAB and one other closely related beetle. They will not harm native plants, humans, or other species. They do however, insert their eggs into EAB larvae. The developing wasps feed on and eventually kill the EAB. So far, thousands of wasps have been released in parts of eight Midwestern states with promising results. They will not eradicate the EAB, but will help keep their numbers to a more manageable level. More research is underway to see if the wasps can survive the cold northern winters.

Did you Know...?

- You can download a 2011 timesheet from the WIMGA website and record all of your hours electronically. Then at the end of the season, you can email the timesheet to the record keeper and you never have to touch a piece of paper or buy a stamp. The time sheets are available at:
<http://wimastergardener.org/?q=Timesheets>
- All of DCMGA old newsletters are online back to 2005. If you are trying to remember what we did in the past, check out the information at:
<http://dodge.uwex.edu/mastergardener/newsletter-archive/>
- If you are unable to take the Master Gardener training but still want to become involved, you can become a "Friend" or an "Associate" Find out how by reading the By-Laws, Article III, Section 1B:
<http://dodge.uwex.edu/files/2010/06/Dodge-County-Master-Gardener-By-Laws.pdf>
- You can check germination rate of old seeds so you adjust the rate at which you sow them. Place 10 seeds between two sheets of moist paper towels and seal in a plastic bag. Place in a warm location (the top of the fridge works well). Check in 10-14 days to see how many germinated. This will give you the percent of seeds that will germinate when sown in the ground. Adjust planting rate accordingly.

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**"Winter is an etching,
spring a watercolor,
summer an oil painting
and autumn a mosaic of
them all."
- Stanley Horowitz**

Dodge County Master Gardener Association

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