



Digging in Dodge

Dodge County Master Gardener Association

Issue 30

A Note from our President

If you ask any gardener how things are going this year, the conversation will likely turn to how dry it has been. Water conservation has been more important than usual this season.

When I was growing up, “Reduce, Re-use, Recycle” wasn’t just a motto, it was a way of life. It wasn’t something we really discussed; we just lived it. That is, unless my mother thought we were being “wasteful.” Then, it became a matter of discussion. And, if she perceived we were not paying attention, we discussed it more thoroughly.

There are many traditional ways to conserve water that have been lost today. When I grew up (in the Stone Age, according to my children) we never did the dishes directly in the sink. We always used a dish pan. When we were done, the water went to nourish the flowers. We also used a wringer washing machine and the water was recycled to the garden. With the advent of the dishwasher and automatic washing machine, the water goes down the drain. What a waste! Trust me, I do not want to go back to a wringer washing machine. However, I do think we all could do a better job of recycling water.

As I thought about this today, I decided to take my own advice. I dug some potatoes from the garden and when I scrubbed them, I let the water run into an ice cream bucket. (My

husband is always happy to supply me with more empty ice cream buckets if necessary.) I used this water to give some very thirsty *Rudebekia* a drink.

For most of us it would be impractical, not to mention cost prohibitive, to water everything in our landscape. So, we choose only those things most important to us. However, with some creative recycling we can make our limited resources go even further. Don’t simply discard water used to scrub buckets, tools or other items; use it to water plants. None of us knows how long this dry spell will last. In fact, by the time you read this maybe it will be over. But, in the mean time, let’s be wise with our resources.

Happy Gardening.

Carol

2012 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.

Inside this issue:

<i>Upcoming Meetings</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	2-3
<i>Congratulations</i>	3
<i>Photo Contest</i>	4
<i>Brown Bag is Back!</i>	5



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, WI 53039.

July 26

Growing Grapes in Wisconsin
Marty and Chris Sell

A 5th generation farmer, Marty grows grapes for wine. He was recently awarded a Winery License and is now Wisconsin's newest and Dodge County's first winery. Meet at the farm, N4595 Welsh Road, Juneau at 6:30 p.m. for a tour and wrap up the evening with some wine tasting. Rain date: Thursday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m.

August 23

Care, Handling, and Arranging of Fresh Flowers
Carol Kreif

As owner of The Village Flower Shoppe in Kekoskee for 32 years, Carol has lots of experience to share. She will demonstrate floral arranging as well as give information about longevity, cutting techniques, and more. Bring your own fresh cut (or dried) flowers and vase and she will assist you in your own arrangements.



September 27

Bats in the Garden
Barb and Ken Bowman

Barb and Ken founded the non-profit Bat Conservation of Wisconsin in 1999. Through it they educate people about the benefits of bats in the environment, and are licensed to perform bat rescue and rehabilitation through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

October 20

Photo Contest
Gail Nampel-coordinator

The 3rd annual Garden Photography Contest is at 1:30 p.m. \$10 admission fee is payable at the door. Ribbons will be awarded during the social hour after Open Judging. "Best of Show" wins a \$50 prize. **See the Dodge County Master Gardener Website for Photo Contest Rules and Entry Form.**

<http://dodge.uwex.edu/files/2011/12/2012-Photo-Contest-Entry-Forms-Rules.pdf>

This Saturday event will replace the usual Thursday meeting.

November

Board Meeting Only

December

No Meeting

Upcoming Events

- **Secret Garden Tour** Saturday, July 21 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Theme is "Gardens, Lawns, and Landscapes." Tour beautiful gardens in the Beaver Dam area. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 on June 25. More information is available at: (920) 885-3635 or bdaaa@seippelcenter.com
- **Interactions Between Plants and Insects** Wednesday, August 15 at 7 p.m. UW Fond du lac Campus, Room UC114, University Center. Plants and insects are linked in many ways. Plants with colorful flowers 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! Free program. For more information see: <http://gottfriedprairiearboretum.org/documents/2012-education-brochure.pdf>
- **Daylily Sale/Dahlia Show** Saturday and Sunday August 18-19 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison. Daylily sale sponsored by Wisconsin Daylily Society and features thousands of hardy, Wisconsin-grown lilies packaged, labeled, ready to plant. See www.daylilysoc.org for more info. 7-10 days before the sale. Dahlia Show Sponsored by the Badger State Dahlia Society. For more information call 608-577-1924.

Upcoming Events

- **Heirloom Apple Tasting: Mid Season Cultivars** Thursdays, August 30, September 27, or October 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellvue Ave., Green Bay. Sample 25+ cultivars of mid season apples from the heirloom orchard and nursery of Maple Valley Orchards and Nursery in Gillett. \$2, pre-registration required. For more information contact Deb Nitka at (920) 465-8512.
- **The 2012 Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Annual State Conference** Friday, September 14, through Sunday September 16. Ashland High School, 1900 Beaser Ave., Ashland. The theme is "Green and Pristine" and includes three breakout sessions, two keynote addresses, and two tours. For more information go to:
wimastergardener.org
- **National Public Lands Volunteer Work Day** Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. September 29 at 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Help remove invasive plants on The Refuge. Long pants, sturdy shoes and gloves are recommended. Refreshments provided. Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the auto tour off Hwy 49. For more information, call (920) 387-2658

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following Master Gardeners who completed the Level 1 Training. This exceptional class all passed their test with "flying colors" according to their instructor.

Susan Blackowiak (Baloun)
Bill Conover
Rick Eckerstorfer
Sharon Fielder
Margaret Furdek
Glen Greenfield
Diane Hemling
Wendy King
Carol Lange
Lois Livenes
Tom McGarvie
Beth Shambeau
Tom Shambeau
Kathy Schmitt
Rachel Schraufnagel
Judy Ann Studer
Sue Weiss
Barbara Young (Schoenfeld)



In addition, Sally Gawle joins Carol Duer, Chris Jacobs and Gail Nampel in passing the very rigorous Advanced Master Gardener Plant Health Advisor Online Course and is ready for all of your questions.

The difference between weeds and flowers is the flowers are the easiest ones to pull out.

Thank-you, Thank-you!

The annual plant sale was a rousing success this year and Chris Zuleger wanted to pass along her personal thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for all of your time, hard work, and plants! Because of all of you and your new innovative ideas, the plant sale was a success. We raised over \$1700, an all time high for our group! Thank you also to the new members, those who contributed plants and opened up their gardens, those who helped by digging and potting, those who worked the plant sale, and to the committee. Everyone worked so hard and individually contributed so much. Truly, gardeners are amazing people and I can't wait to see what next year will bring!

And, Thank-you Again

Tom McGarvie and Lee Buescher tell us: The Watertown International Peace Garden Spring Clean Up went extremely well on Saturday, May 19. The weather was terrific.

Members of the Dodge County Master Gardener Association helped make the day a success.

New members as well as past MGVs worked very hard to make the Peace Garden look tremendous.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all of them.





**The Dodge County Master Gardeners Association
Is pleased to host our**

3rd Annual Garden Photography Contest

Plus!

**Short “How-To” Presentations from
Each of our 3 Judges**

**Saturday October 20, 2012
Administration Building
127 E. Oak Street, Juneau WI
1:30 p.m.**

Attendance - \$10 per person payable at door.

Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in addition to Honorable Mention. New this year: Digitally Enhanced and Youth Categories! Winners will be announced during the Social Hour immediately following the Presentations by the Judges. Entry voted “Best of Show” will receive a Rosette Ribbon and \$50 Cash Prize.

Additional information and details for contest entry can be found on our website:

dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/

or

wimastergardener.org/?q=Dodge

New Map

This spring the US Department of Agriculture issued a new Cold Plant Hardiness Zone Map. An online interactive map can be found at: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>.

This new map replaces the one issued in 1990 and relies on more extensive data over a greater period of time. However, UW Associate Professor and horticulture specialist Laura Jull cautions, "The most prudent policy is to continue what growers and gardeners have been doing: growing plants known to be cold-hardy for their area," Jull said. "Even though most areas in Wisconsin shifted a half zone (5°F) warmer, I would still recommend growing plants rated to the previous 1990 zone map, that is, half a zone colder (e.g. zone 4b versus 5a). If a gardener wishes to attempt to grow less winter-hardy plants, make sure to plant them in a protected, non-exposed location protected from winter winds."

There are a variety of factors that determine plant hardiness, including first and last frost date, amount of sunlight, soil condition, moisture, and micro-climate.

So, continue to use caution when experimenting with those plants that are on the lower end of the winter hardy spectrum.

Prizes

Al Krause has raffle tickets for the 2012 WIMGA Conference. They are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Prizes include a handmade king-size quilt, a 16" Mantis rototiller, and a five-tier planter. Contact Al at al.krause@charter.net for more information.

Brown Bag is Back!

The Brown Bag Program was a very popular monthly program formerly coordinated by Horticulture Specialist, Bob Tomesh. It became necessary to suspend it for a time, however, the members of the UW-Horticultural Team have revived it.

Check out the posted programs at: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/brownbag/>

The newest programs include: "Growing Tomatoes in Containers," "Growing Degree Days and Crab Grass Control for 2012," and "Why Woody Plants Won't Flower." Also included at this site are older programs from previous years. Any of these will count toward Continuing Education Hours for Master Gardener recertification.

You can also subscribe to the Brown Bag Program at: <https://lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/mgv-brownbag>

and be notified when new programs are listed.

Previously MGVs would bring their "brown bag" lunches and meet at the Extension Offices to listen together to a teleconference on a given Friday over the noon hour. Now, you can listen at your convenience in your own home! Isn't technology wonderful?



Got Zucchini?

If you have an abundance of zucchini in your garden this year, try this tasty recipe. Moist and delicious, your family won't even know they are eating their vegetables!



Chocolate Zucchini Cake

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose or whole wheat flour
- 2 cups white sugar
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 3 cups grated zucchini

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour a 9x13 inch baking pan.

In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Add the eggs and oil, mix well. Fold in the zucchini until evenly distributed. Pour into the prepared pan.

Bake for 50 to 60 minutes in the preheated oven, until a knife inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool cake completely before frosting with your favorite frosting.

Board of Directors

David Laatsch
Crops and Soils Agent
UW-Extension Office
(920) 386-3790

Carol Shirk
President
(920) 387-5105

Chuck Meyer
Vice President
(920) 326-2219

Jan Krause
Secretary
(920) 261-7939

Terry Zimmerlee
Treasurer
(920) 885-2137

Berwyn Westra
Local Record Keeper
(920) 326-3885

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

*"When the world wearies
and society ceases to
satisfy, there is always
the garden."
- Minnie Aumonier*

Dodge County Master Gardener Association

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

Phone: (920) 386-3790

<http://wimastergardener.org/>

<http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/>

