Tradition is defined as “an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior”. Traditions permeate our lives. We have holiday traditions, clothing traditions, family traditions, and yes, even garden traditions.

Some of us like the tradition of a well-kept, everything-in-its-place garden that is symmetrical and logical; those that have balance and order. Others are more traditionally eclectic. Nothing is out of place in these gardens, everything finds a home and the space is friendly, if somewhat chaotic. Then, there are the gardens that have plants that came from friends, relatives, neighbors, and acquaintances. It is put together in such a way that it flows from one scene to another and tells a story of the gardener’s life.

Not only does the landscape itself lend itself to tradition, but how we garden is steeped in tradition. I worked at the Earth Day booth in Beaver Dam recently and had the opportunity to speak to a number of people. I am continually amazed at the variety of ways people approach gardening. I spoke to one young friend that has a unique method of fertilization. She has young children who enjoy fishing. However, she has not yet embraced the joy of preparing those offerings as a meal. So, she traditionally plants them and “eats” them in vegetable form after they have fertilized her garden.

Many people still hold to the tradition of planting their potatoes on Good Friday. This is not necessarily the best tradition since potatoes require soil temperatures of at least 40˚ F to germinate well, usually 2-4 weeks before the last frost date. In Dodge County the last frost date is May 1-10. So, potatoes should not go into the ground before early April, on a good year. In the years when Easter falls well into March, it would be best to forgo this tradition.

Peas are another crop that tradition says should go in on Good Friday. However, they will not germinate well until the soil temperature is 60˚F. If you must stick to your tradition, try an experiment next year. Plant some on Good Friday and then plant more several weeks later when the soil has warmed. See if the later planting does not in fact catch up and surpass those poor peas that sat in the cold ground and shivered until they could get a good growing start. Then, decide what to do in subsequent years.

Try expanding some of your traditions this year and incorporating a few new ones. Make THIS the year you plant that one thing you have been thinking about. Go outside your comfort zone, but not your hardiness zone.

Whatever the traditions might be in your garden or method, may I encourage you to share them? Draw in your neighbors and friends, young and old, experienced and novice. Share your bounty as well as your love of gardening. That is a tradition that will never grow old.

Happy Gardening

Carol
2015 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.

May 28 – Home Composting by Carol Shirk. Composting is a gardening task that causes unnecessary angst. It is actually a simple process occurring every day in nature. With a few simple pointers, every gardener can have a successful compost pile. Carol Shirk has been gardening for over 50 years. She took the Master Gardener training first in 1996 in Wisconsin and again in 1998 in North Carolina and is currently serving as the Dodge County Master Gardener Association president.

June 25 – Pet Friendly Gardening by Dr. Vicky Smith. Dr. Vicky Smith, a veterinarian and practice owner at Wyllow Pet Hospital in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin reviews garden designing with pets in mind, avoiding plants and other gardening aids that can be harmful to pets, plants that your pet will enjoy, plant locations, water resources, and garden activities for pets. Resources for further information will be provided.

July 23 – Tour Bryn-Teg Farm, Ashippun by Gary and Caryl Watterson. The acreage of BrynTeg Farm has been in the same family since 1963. They use all-natural, time-tested growing processes: Vegetables, herbs, and most fruits are grown free of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, and the apple orchard is maintained using integrated pest management (IPM). Produce is available through Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter CSA subscriptions, individual ordering, and the Delafield Farmers’ Market. We will be touring the 13 acre farm, and sharing a snack potluck.

Master Gardener Websites

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

Master Gardener E-mail

askamastergardener@att.net

Ephemeral is defined as lasting a very short time or transitory or quickly fading
Events of Interest

May 16, 2015
Dodge County Master Gardener Plant Sale
Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau WI
8 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
This is a sale which includes a fine selection of herbs, houseplants, annuals, perennials, and vegetables. These are just a sampling of the plants grown and provided by Dodge County Master Gardeners. Don’t miss it! For more information about this plant sale, contact Master Gardener Lois Livens at 920-344-2109.

Again this year – a limited number of rain barrels for sale! The barrels feature a 50-gallon capacity, with a spigot on the bottom, hose connection on the top, and a large screened opening to direct the water from your downspout. The cost is $50 per barrel and a sample rain barrel is available for viewing in the UW-Extension Office.

May 16, 2015
Wildflowers for Wildlife ~ Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and Visitor Center (Hwy. Z)
9 a.m.—1 p.m.
Native plant sale, pollinator presentation at 10:00 a.m., displays, native landscape tours and more. Sponsored by Friends of Horicon NWR and Friends of Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center. Plants will be for sale the day of the event. For more information, call 920-387-2658, EXT 115. The refuge visitor center is located off County Road Z about 3.5 miles south of State Highway 49. http://www.horiconmarsh.org/

May 20, 2015
Native Landscaping, A Historical Overview from Jens Jensen to Contemporary Landscape Applications and Issues ~ UW Fond du Lac, Room UC114, Fond du Lac, WI
7 p.m.
Jens Jensen was at the forefront of the Prairie School landscape movement which emphasized the use native plants in artistically designed settings inspired by nature. We’ll take a close look at some of projects he designed, discuss his role in early conservation efforts, and also learn about his folk school, The Clearing.

Stephen McCarthy has practiced landscape architecture with a focus on native landscape restoration for the past 37 years. He has served as landscape architect for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and manages the Greenseams land acquisition program which has preserved 3000 acres of wetlands, riparian corridors, and forested areas.

June 7, 2015
Hosta Sale ~ Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison WI
9 a.m.—3 p.m. or while supplies last
Pick up some interesting hostas to add to your collection at the Wisconsin Hosta Society's Plant Sale. These shade-loving perennials, prized for their interesting foliage, come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. For more information call 608-835-3291.

June 19, 2015
Winged Wonders ~ Horicon Marsh Education Center, Horicon WI
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Bring the whole family to learn about native pollinators. From crafts to honey tasting, there will be something for everyone. Activities throughout the day.

For more events, visit the Wisconsin Master Gardener website at http://wimastergardener.org/?q=EventsList

Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers—germinate, produce seed, flower, and die in short period of time
2015 Gardening for Gold

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015
8:15 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.
HORICON MARSH EDUCATION CENTER
PUBLIC IS WELCOME
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Presenters:
Bee Keeping ~ Bernadette & Quinn Williams
Gardening for Pollinators ~ Tim Eilbes
Fairy Gardens ~ Heather Kreif
Growing and Using Herbs ~ Susan Obry

Watch for the brochure with the registration form to become available at: http://dodge.uwex.edu/

The Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) is holding their 2015 Annual Conference in La Crosse, WI July 31 - August 1, 2015. The Bluff Country Master Gardener Association is hosting this event. They welcome all Master Gardener Volunteers and anyone who wants to learn more about gardening.

Experience two full days of spectacular scenery, engaging speakers, and camaraderie among old and new gardeners, during this informative, educational conference on gardening.

For more information and to register go to: http://www.bluffcountrymastergardeners.org/wimga-2015.html

State Conference

Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) 2015 Conference
Life is Gardening....Learn from the Past.....Plant for the Future

Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity. ~Lindley Karstens, noproblemgarden.com

The top portion of the plant dies off, leaving only the roots to survive until the following spring
Annual Bus Trip

Our annual bus tour is coming up quickly. We have less than 10 seats left on the bus for this great opportunity to see some of the best gardens in the Midwest. The two gardens chosen are considered leading educational, social and horticultural destinations enriching the quality of life.

Green Bay Botanical Gardens – We will explore the Garden with a knowledgeable guide. We will discover the rich history of the gardens, learn about the architecture, and enjoy the beauty of the many gardens.

Gardens of Kohler – The tour continues as we travel to Kohler and enjoy the experience of a true “garden community.” We will stop at the American Club for lunch in their Fountain Courtyard. After lunch we will tour the American Club gardens and then take a walking tour of the village of Kohler.

Although we have not gone public with the tour information, the trip is open to anyone regardless of affiliation with Master Gardeners. Registrations will be accepted until May 22nd. The registration form with instructions can be found on the DCMGA website. [http://www.wimastergardener.org/sites/wimastergardener.org/files/locals/Dodge/2015DodgeBUSTRIP.pdf](http://www.wimastergardener.org/sites/wimastergardener.org/files/locals/Dodge/2015DodgeBUSTRIP.pdf)

Master Gardener Articles

Have you read the articles the Dodge County Master Gardeners have been writing for area newspapers? Ask A Master Gardener articles are roughly 600 words and are submitted twice a month to The Fond du lac Reporter and the Dodge County Pioneer. Home Living articles are larger articles, about 700 words, and can be found in the Home Living Section of the Beaver Dam Daily Citizen on the last Saturday of the month.

If you don’t get the papers, no problem. The Ask A Master Gardener articles are posted on the Dodge County UW-Extension’s website— [http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/ask-a-master-gardener-2/](http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/ask-a-master-gardener-2/) and the Dodge County Master Gardener Facebook page. The Wisconsin Master Gardener website posts the Home Living articles—[http://www.wimastergardener.org/?q=DodgeArticles](http://www.wimastergardener.org/?q=DodgeArticles)

Topics written about so far this year include:

Aloe ~ Carol Shirk
Blue Harbor Tropical Arboretum & Farms ~ Marianne Zastrow
Bees, Butterflies and Hummingbirds ~ Margaret Furdek
Naked Ladies ~ Carol Shirk
Penstemon ~ Carol Shirk
Gardening in February ~ Carol Shirk
Musclewood trees ~ Carol Shirk
Earthworms ~ Chris Jacobs
Shamrocks ~ Chris Jacobs
Lambs quarter ~ Carol Shirk
Monarchs and Milkweed ~ Beth Shambeau
Virginia bluebells ~ Chris Jacobs

Examples of Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers—Bloodroot, Dogtooth Violet, Trillium, Virginia bluebells, Yellow Trout Lily
2015 Board Members

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Secretary—Jan Krause
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Local Record Keeper—Lois Livens
WIMGA Representative—Al Krause

2015 Certified Master Gardeners

Congratulations to the 35 Master Gardeners who were certified for 2015. In order to be certified, each person had to volunteer a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service and complete at least 10 hours of continuing education for recertification, or completed 24 hours of volunteer service within a year of training.

Gae Bergmann
Pat Cunderman
Carol Duer
Margaret Furdek
Glen Greenfield
Ben Hagman
Judy Hagman
Diane Hemling
Chris Jacobs
Linda Kane
Wendy King
Al Krause
Jan Krause
Lois Livens
Dennis Loomis
Joan Loomis
Amy Maliborski
Chuck Meyer
Claudia Mielke
William Milbrot
Gail Nampel
Sondra Olsen
Dianne Priegel
Beth Shambeau
Tom Shambeau
Carol Shirk
Charlotte Snow
Judy Ann Studer
Tom Tlougan
Kay Voelker
Helen Weisensel
Berwyn Westra
Marianne Zastrow
Terry Zimmerlee
Christine Zuleger

Master Gardeners who achieved significant milestones:

150 Hours
Pat Cunderman

250 Hours
Gae Bergmann
Glen Greenfield
Lois Livens
Charlotte Snow

500 Hours
Chris Jacobs
Al Krause
Christine Zuleger

750 Hours
Gail Nampel
In recent years, you may have seen on TV or read about the decline of the monarch butterfly. Researchers believe the population has decreased 80% in the last 20 years and is at a dangerously low level.

There are many factors attributed to this decline. Logging and the diminishing forest canopy along with weather patterns have long been factors, but most researchers agree that one of the key problems is the growing scarcity of milkweed.

One of the more recent and devastating factors has been the conversion of conservation land to crops to be used for biofuel. According to Monarch Watch, over the last 10 years, it is estimated that 147 million acres of habitat have been lost. Use of herbicides, suburban development, and roadside practices, such as the mowing of ditches also contribute to this loss.

As individuals, there isn’t a lot we can do about the logging or the weather, but we can help with the habitat. You don’t need a large field for milkweed and you may be surprised to know that there are gorgeous varieties of milkweed that look great in a garden.

The tropical milkweed is probably the favorite for most gardeners. It has gorgeous flowers of red and yellow and vibrant green leaves. It grows quickly from seed and flowers all summer. The seeds are easy to collect in fall and can be sown in early spring. It is normally annual here, but may reseed in protected areas. If you aren’t familiar with this beautiful plant, please learn more about it.

A native variety to this area is the butterfly weed. It is also very attractive with bright orange flowers. It is very hardy and again, easy to grow from seed and is perennial. It will come back stronger every year.

The monarch prefers the common or tropical milkweed, but I have found many monarch caterpillars on my butterfly weed over the years.

I encourage you to put in a few milkweed plants this season, whatever the variety. Keep the garden organic as the young caterpillars are very sensitive to any pesticide or herbicide. My yard is small and even from our 10’ x 10’ patch, we collect hundreds of eggs every season and see monarchs daily.

There are things we can do within our communities to bring back the monarchs, such as planting milkweed and sharing the seeds with friends. We can also encourage our townships to minimize mowing and spraying of ditches which are the perfect habitat for milkweed to grow naturally.

If you would like any more information on monarch habitat, raising, or tagging, feel free to contact me anytime at bshambeau@gmail.com and let’s bring back the monarchs!

Beth Shambeau
Certified Master Gardener

For the complete article go to http://www.wimastergardener.org/?q=DodgeArticles

Ask A Master Gardener Helpline

The Ask A Master Gardener Helpline is now open. Certified Master Gardener Volunteers will answer questions about yard, garden or plants every Tuesday morning from 9-noon and every Thursday afternoon from 1-4 pm through September 3rd. The Certified Master Gardener Volunteers will be located at the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 E Oak Street, Juneau on the first floor in Room 1E.

Clients can bring in plant, insect, or tree specimens to be identified. Or if there are questions about plant health, turf care management, plant selection, landscape problems, vegetable and fruit management, or anything horticulture related, clients can call, stop in, or email questions. The email address is askmaster-gardener@att.net.
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Local Record Keeper
(817) 939-8534

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

Dodge County Master Gardener Association
UW-Extension, Administration
Building 127 E. Oak Street,
Juneau, WI 53039
Phone: (920) 386-3790