I am a misfit. I come from a family of wonderful artists and craftsmen. One person is a custom woodworker who does incredible work for churches and other businesses. Another person has such a talent at crocheting and knitting that she has had patterns published. Yet another does spectacular work in glass and quilted items that she regularly has her work in shows and shops in a large area. And, yet another person custom builds engines for high performance vehicles.

The family joke is that, well, at least I can butcher chickens. This stems from my days of raising my own chickens and turkeys and taking them from chicks to the table. At least my young nephews like to hear the stories. But, that is a column for another time. Or not.

Now, as I look over the donations for the Silent Auction for the Fall Symposium, I see that I am once again a misfit among stars. The variety of donated items is impressive. We have some extremely talented people in our organization, not just in the garden, but obviously in other areas of their lives. I would list things, but do not want to risk missing someone and causing hurt feelings. Nor do I want to spoil the surprise for you when you get there. But, trust me on this, you are going to be amazed and delighted.

On another note, the Help Line finished up the first season on September 4, 2014. And, a successful season it was. We served the needs of many clients and answered questions about plant identification, turf management, insect damage, tree decline, vegetable garden problems, flower blooming times, and more. In most cases the Master Gardener had to do some research and get back to the client which did not present a problem to anyone involved.

But, now that we have hit October, the gardening season is ending. We will soon be buttoning up the gardens for the winter and getting ready to settle in for a rest. I know many people dislike this season, but I am usually tired and ready for a respite from the physical labor. However, I am not idle during this time; it is a time of planning. Dodge County Master Gardener Association has plans to organize and launch a Junior Master Gardener Organization in 2015. It will be an after school type program that will continue on through the summers. The youth will learn about gardening, create craft and art projects, work on community service projects, and form a bond with other gardeners. I am very excited about this opportunity. Watch the newsletter for more information about it in the future.

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, 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.

October 23 - Plants in Winter - Surviving the Big Chill by James A. Reinartz, Director - University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (UWM) Field Station. For over 30 years, Dr. Reinartz has managed the UWM Field Station. He is a plant ecologist, wetland ecologist, and evolutionary biologist, who teaches about Wisconsin’s vegetation, wetland ecology, grassland ecology. He will discuss how plants adapt for surviving the winter, managing natural areas and dealing with invasive plants.

November and December—No Meetings

January 22, 2015 Project Review - Master Gardener Volunteers
A review of the projects that the Dodge County Master Gardener Association Volunteers participated in during 2014, complete with photos and discussion.

Master Gardener Websites

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

October 18, 2014
Landscaping with Wisconsin Native Plants ~ Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, Mayville WI
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Mike Yanny of Johnson’s Nursery Inc. will discuss his favorite native plants and how they can be used in landscaping during a guided tour of the visitor center’s newly installed native landscaping. Horicon National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, W4279 Headquarters Road, Mayville WI; phone (920) 387-2658 x124. The office/visitor center is located on the east side of Horicon Marsh, 3.5 miles south of State Highway 49 on County Road Z.

September 20 - November 9, 2014
Over the Rainbow Fall Mum Show ~ Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee WI
Somewhere above a rainbow of mum plants, statues of characters from The Wonderful Wizard of Oz will greet visitors at “Over the Rainbow,” the fall show at The Domes. Fans of the chrysanthemum will find a wide selection of the popular plant, for the show 6,750 cuttings were purchased. Regular admission. The Domes, Milwaukee’s Living Landmark, is located at 524 S. Layton Blvd. For show details call (414) 257-5611.

November 6, 2014
Holiday Bulbs Workshop ~ Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Learn how to brighten your home for the winter holidays with two easy-to-force bulbs - colorful amaryllis and fragrant paperwhites. Working with Olbrich Horticulturist Christian Harper, you will plant and take home two containers guaranteed to bloom in the following month - plus tips on how to plant more. They're great for the holidays. This workshop will show you how fun and easy they are to grow. $55 ($44 members). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550. Registration deadline: October 30

December 17, 2014
Rain Gardens...A Good Fit for Your Yard ~ Room UC114 - UW Fond du Lac University Center
7 p.m.
Learn to identify sources of rainwater runoff from your yard that could instead be managed as part of your landscape. See how modifying existing flower beds or creating new ones can catch diverted rainwater, filter out its pollutants, and then return it naturally to the watershed where you live. For more information visit their website at www.gottfriedprairie.org or call Tracy McDermott at (920) 313-0190.

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

The 2015 timesheet is now three pages, with pages 1 and 2 to be turned in by October 1st to our record keeper, Lois Livens. Page 3 contains the instructions and information on how to categorize the volunteer hours. There is a new question that is required to be completed on the timesheet. If you don’t use the timesheet for your hours, you might want to this year.

Reminders regarding completing timesheets for 2015

All volunteer projects and continuing education should be for UW-Extension sponsored programs or projects or community or civic group projects or programs. The local facilitator is the final authority on determining what is acceptable. A general rule of thumb is that the activity benefits the community, not just an individual. Ask before you embark on a project to make sure it is ok as volunteer service. Volunteer work should generally be done within the county.

Travel time based on the time a MGV leaves home until returning home, minus personal errands, and preparation and research time on projects or programs can be included in volunteer service hours.

Note: Travel time to Continuing Education programs cannot be counted.

There are three categories for recording volunteer hours

- Youth Education
- Community Education
- Support Services

To become certified or recertified a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer service is required annually. To become recertified 10 hours of Continuing Education is required annually.

Timesheets can be downloaded from the Wisconsin Master Gardener website http://www.wimastergardener.org/?q=MGVtimesheets, or a hard copy can be picked up at meetings from Lois Livens.

If you are unsure if a project counts towards volunteer hours—ask!
Save the Dates

**November 1, 2014**  
Gardening for Gold, Fall Symposium - Horicon Marsh  
International Education Center (Registration deadline was October 10)

**December 15, 2014**  
Due date for the Dodge County Master Gardener Association annual membership dues.

**February 13—15, 2015**  
WPT’s Garden Expo, Madison, WI

**March 18, 2015**  
Dodge County Association for Home & Community Education present a learning session on Hummingbirds.

**July 31—August 1, 2015**  
WIGMA Annual State Conference, La Crosse WI

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**Fun Pumpkin Facts**

- The top pumpkin production states are Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and California.
- Pumpkin seeds can be roasted as a snack.
- Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A.
- Pumpkins are used for feed for animals.
- Pumpkin flowers are edible.
- Pumpkins are used to make soups, pies and breads.
- The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.
- Pumpkins are members of the vine crops family called cucurbits.
- Pumpkins originated in Central America.
- In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.
- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.
- Pumpkins range in size from less than a pound to over 1,000 pounds.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.
- The name pumpkin originated from "pepon" – the Greek word for "large melon."
- The Connecticut field variety is the traditional American pumpkin.
- Pumpkins are 90 percent water.
- Pumpkins are fruit.
- Eighty percent of the pumpkin supply in the United States is available in October.
- In colonial times, Native Americans roasted long strips of pumpkin in an open fire.
- Colonists sliced off pumpkin tops; removed seeds and filled the insides with milk, spices and honey. This was baked in hot ashes and is the origin of pumpkin pie.
- Native Americans flattened strips of pumpkins, dried them and made mats.
- Native Americans called pumpkins "isqoutm squash."
- Native Americans used pumpkin seeds for food and medicine.

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**The Mystery Master Gardener is…..**

Chris Jacobs

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 Chris and meet one of the many smiling faces that makes our association so great.
2014 Dodge County Fair

The main theme of the booth this year was composting. The booth included a composting bin, complete with compostable materials. The big display board showed different types of composting bins, and lists of things that could and could not be composted. There were many handouts relating to composting that went very fast. There seemed to be much interest in this topic.

Many fair goers stopped by to try their hand at our game of chance, which was built by Dennis Loomis, Dodge County MGV. It was a wheel with colored sections with questions attached that they had to answer. Their prize was either a Master Gardener pen or a piece of candy. Another activity that the fair goers seemed to enjoy was identifying the containers of seeds. Different vegetable seeds were put in small jars. We gave them hints if they needed help.

We also displayed one of our rain barrels, which are built by Glen Greenfield, another Dodge County MGV. We sold two rain barrels this year.

Master Gardeners spent their time answering questions on trees and gardens, plant identification, discussing composting, and helping those of all ages identify seeds and spin the wheel on the game of chance. Young and old alike seemed to learn something from their time at the booth. Several people signed up for our quarterly newsletter.

Overall, the booth was very successful.

Many thanks to all the workers.

I can hardly wait for next year!

Master Gardener Helpline

Completed Successful First Year

Dodge County Master Gardeners provided community Helpline services to gardeners with a wide variety of questions during the summer of 2014. This was the first year Helpline services were provided, with assistance available on Thursday afternoons from June through the first week of September.

Gardeners with questions were invited to call into the Helpline, email a question, or come into the Master Gardener office at the County Office Building in Juneau. Throughout the summer, the Helpline received over 30 inquiries that ranged from identification of plants and trees, to “what are these spots on my tomatoes”, to pruning questions for trees and bushes. Because of the wet, cold spring there were many issues of mildew and fungus, especially with vegetables and maple trees. Most inquiries came from the local area, but there was one call all the way from Nebraska.

Eleven Master Gardeners spent over 100 hours researching questions and providing answers and guidance. Throughout this first year of operation, Helpline workers became more comfortable using the many resources available to ensure we give the accurate and appropriate advice. This valuable experience will help us move forward for expanded services in 2015.

Beginning the first week in May and continuing through the first week of September of 2015, Helpline services will be available Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, and Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone having questions or needing information about home gardening issues (including flowers, vegetables, trees and shrubs, soil issues, insects, plant diseases, etc.) are welcome to contact a Master Gardener:

In person at the Dodge County Office Building, 127 E. Oak St., Juneau, WI - Room IE
By telephone at (920) 386-3790
By email at askamastergardener@att.net

Diane Priegel, Dodge County MGV
### Marcescent Leaves

It's that time of year when the leaves are changing color and dropping onto our lawns. Even though it may seem like all the trees are dropping their leaves, there are a few deciduous trees that hold onto their dried leaves throughout the winter. Marcescent (mahr-CESS-ent) is the term used to describe this type of leaf retention which is common among many species of oaks (*Quercus*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), and ironwood (*Ostrya Virginiana*). These leaves are dry, but yet springy – they don’t crumble into pieces. The leaves will stay on the tree until wind or snow break them off, spring’s expanding buds push the leaves off the branch, or there may be some leaves that stay attached.

Tree genetics is the main reason for leaf retention, but early cold weather or frosts can increase the occurrence of marcescent. It may also be a sign of problems if it occurs before seasonal changes or if it is on isolated stems. Marcescent is common with young trees and may disappear as the tree matures, small trees, or more apparent on lower branches of larger trees.

There is much speculation on why a tree holds onto its leaves. One idea is that the dried leaves serve as protection for the trees, either from being eaten by deer as these leaves tend to be low in nutrients and difficult to digest, and/or protecting the buds and twigs from frost throughout the winter. Another thought is the trees hold onto the leaves through the winter, so that when the leaves are dropped in the spring there is more organic material available to the tree when it is needed the most. This might be important to small understory trees with smaller root systems. By holding onto their leaves they retain and recycle the nutrients for themselves. There is also the theory that the dried leaves are an effective way to trap snow, which leads to more moisture at the base of the tree come spring.

Whatever the reason these trees hold onto their leaves, the dried leaves can add winter interest to the landscape and may serve as a source of winter protection for birds.

Chris Jacobs, Dodge County MGV

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### External Features of a Leaf & Leaf Shapes

Knowing the parts of a leaf and leaf shapes are important for plant identification.
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