

2017 Dodge County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Educational Program Schedule



January 26—*Project Year in Review* by Master Gardener Volunteers of projects participated in during 2016, complete with photos and discussion.

February 23—*Proper tree planting and pruning* by Don Samuelson. Board Certified Master Arborist since 1989 Don will teach the basics of proper tree planting, emphasizing the importance of soil and root health. Specimens will be available to identify in the landscape what to look for. He will also discuss proper tree pruning. Don has owned his own business, Agape Tree Care, since 1973. He has received training from Dr. Ed Gilman, University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department professor and expert in the field. Don is also a Master Gardener with experience in teaching about pruning trees and shrubs.

March 23—*Hummingbirds* by Chris Jacobs. Hummingbirds are a treat to have in the garden. They play an important role as pollinators and are entertaining to watch. They can be quite feisty when protecting their territory, are very acrobatic as they hover and dart up and down and even backwards, and can be very vocal with their squeaky chirps and twitters. Hummingbirds are creatures of habit, they return about the same time each year and will return to the same spot. Give them a reason to return to your garden year after year. Chris took the Master Gardener Volunteer training in 2008 and has been an active member of the Dodge County Master Gardener Association since that time.

April 27—*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 25—*Prairie Restoration* by Pat Clark. Pat Clark has been working on prairie restoration since 1989. When not spending time in his occupation in the financial services industry for the last 27 years or time with his wife and two children, he is researching and studying the history of the Wisconsin landscape prior to European settlement (about 1840). From a vacant corn field, he through trial and error restored a 30 acre prairie to what it looked like prior to farming. He now has 177 native Wisconsin species on the restored area and continues to find more. At one time prairie dominated the entire Midwest region. He has written a book, which was published in 2003 called, "Observation from a Wisconsin Prairie." Which works its way through a seasonal description of restoring a Wisconsin prairie, and the experiences of attempting this ecological recreation. He has been asked from countless groups throughout Wisconsin to speak about this challenge. He has become a knowledgeable ecologist and environmentalist concerning prairie restoration, preservation, the vast array of flora in these environs and the interaction of man and this ecosystem.

June 22—*Square Foot Gardening* by Carol Shirk. Square foot gardening is an intensive gardening method that maximizes space and reduces work. This is a great method for people who have limited space, who want to try something new, and who wants to reduce the time spent in the garden, but still have a bounty to harvest. Come learn how to build, plant, and maintain a square foot garden from Master Gardener Carol Shirk. Carol has been a Master Gardener for over 20 years and has been gardening for more than 50 years..

July 27—*Off site tour.* Al and Jan Krause, both Master Gardeners with the Dodge County Master Gardener Association will share their beautiful flower gardens (which have been in a constant state of flux for over 45 years). Current emphasis has been to cut back on labor-intensive flowerbeds and shrubbery. They were recent recipients of the Watertown Arts Council garden award.

August 24—*Herbs that Heal* by Janet McCounaghy. Have a cold, flu, headache, pain? Answers to your health problems could be as close as the kitchen. Come learn about uses of some common herbs we all have on hand.

Janet has lived in Wisconsin since 2000, before that in West Virginia for 23 years. While in West Virginia, she was a Master Gardener, Certified Organic Farmer, and member of the WV Herb Growers Assoc. Twelve acres of her 300 acres were organic. She raised vegetables, fruit, and woods grown botanicals. Since moving to WI, she has cultivated a "green" life. She has installed geothermal heat and solar panels on her house. She raises most of her vegetables, many kind of fruits, bees, and this spring, she's getting chickens. Janet is a board member of Sustain Jefferson and is happy spending her retirement in the backyard.

September 28-- *Plants on the Frontier* by Kate Redmond. In 1492, an exchange of plants began between the Old World and the New. What plants did the Native Americans and later, the Europeans use in a time before drugstores, grocery stores, home improvement, and department stores? How did they know what was safe to eat? Kate Redmond will answer those questions and more.

Kate is a Wisconsin interpretive naturalist/environmental educator. She is excited about wetlands, prairies, writing, insects (especially dragonflies), carnivorous plants, native orchids, and photography. She served for 10 years as a founding board member of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog, wrote the on-line field guide to the Mequon Nature Preserve and as the Bug Lady, has written more than 350 essays about local insects, and other invertebrates.

October 26—*Cactus and Succulents* by Dan Mahr. Dan will give a general introduction of cactus and succulents. He will give an overview of the most common groups of succulents in cultivation and the ones most successful as houseplants. He will also have a segment of photos from nature, taken while traveling throughout North and South America, Africa, and various islands.

Dan has been growing them for cactus and succulents for over 50 years, first in southern California, and for the past 36 years in Wisconsin. He has been a member of Cactus and Succulent Society of America for over 30 years and a member of the Board of Directors from 1997 to 2014. He was awarded the honorary distinction of Fellow in 2003; served as President 2005-2006. He is an accomplished author, photographer, and speaker with a wealth of knowledge. He has visited cactus and succulent plants in their native habitats in over 15 countries.

Dan Mahr grew up in southern California, received his B.S. and M.S. in zoology at San Diego State University, and his Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of California, Riverside. He worked at San Diego State before coming to the Department of Entomology, UW Madison for over 30 years. He specialized in agricultural pest management in fruit crops and biological control. He retired in 2011 and is now an emeritus faculty.

November and December—*No meetings. Happy Holidays!!*

All meetings are held in the Administration Building in Juneau at 127 East Oak Street on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Gardeners of all stages of expertise are invited! Come and bring a friend. Contact us at: askamastergardener@att.net or like us on Facebook.